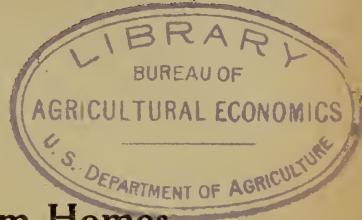


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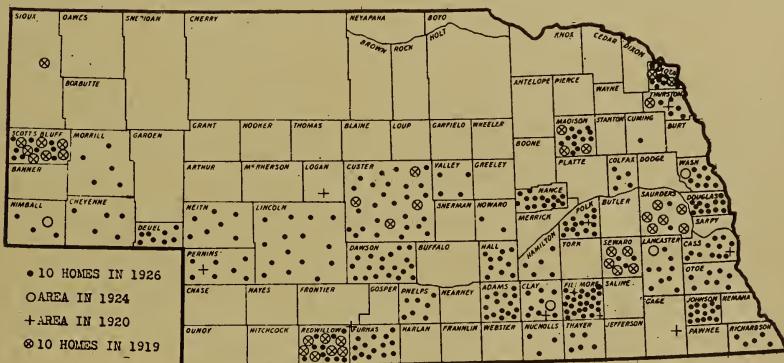
December, 1928



The Use of Time in Farm Homes

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MAY 20 1929



THE HOMES STUDIED

The homes were sufficiently scattered in location and time to represent most parts of the state, and give a little idea of the progress which has been made in the last ten years.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
EXPERIMENT STATION
LINCOLN

W. W. BURR, DIRECTOR

SUMMARY BY LINES

THE FARMER AND HOME-MAKER

Use of time was studied in many Nebraska farm homes. Pages 1-4.
Farm men and women had long work days, especially in summer.
Pages 5-8.

Visiting, church going, community affairs, movies, entertainments, trips to the city, outings, and vacations were the chief away-from-home uses of time. Pages 8-11.

Farm people generally took "days off" or short trips rather than vacations. Pages 11-12.

Practically all Nebraska farm home-makers baked, washed, ironed, and sewed. Pages 12-14.

Some of the men and many of the women kept accounts covering the farm, the household, and the sales of eggs. Page 14.

Most of the women spent time on poultry, dairy, and garden work, and sold eggs or poultry. A few did field work. Pages 15-16.

Hired help was mainly for farm work and increased home work, but some women were hired to help in the house. Pages 17-20.

Sickness took time from work and recreation. Pages 20 and 21.

EQUIPMENT AFFECTS USE OF TIME

Radio sets, pianos, and phonographs made spare time more enjoyable.
Pages 22 and 23.

Cars, telephones, and libraries helped to offset the evils of farm isolation. Pages 24 and 25.

Newspapers and magazines aided in the use of time in nearly all homes, but few books were bought. Pages 26 and 27.

THE CHILDREN

The farm child's use of time is especially important. Pages 27 and 28.

Most farm children worked at home at tasks of many kinds and a few worked away from home. Pages 28-31.

Play also was universal, widely varied, and most important among farm children. Pages 31-35.

Fiction, news, and economic and other educational materials were read, in the order named. Pages 35-37.

Home study and reading were important. Pages 37-39.

A sixth of the children were club members. Pages 40-42.

SOME COSTS

About \$90 per year was spent on education and recreation. Pages 42-45.

Farm and city homes spend about \$10 a year for home reading.
Pages 46 and 47.

Entertainments and vacations took very little from the farm purse.
Pages 47 and 48.

Churches got most of the money paid to organizations but some went to lodges, women's clubs, and farmers' organizations. Pages 48 and 49.

Further studies of the use of time by farm people are needed. Page 50.

The Use of Time in Farm Homes¹

J. O. RANKIN

How much time do farm people spend in the work of making a living and providing for the future, and how much in recreation, education, mere idleness, or in positively harmful practices? Nobody can give entirely satisfactory answers, but this bulletin attempts to throw some light on the problems involved. It presents part of the data gathered in a survey conducted largely for other purposes. It does not present a complete study of the use of time on farms but it does show in part how the men, women, and children on Nebraska farms use their time.

Time may be spent in (1) the business of getting the necessities of life, (2) accumulating a surplus, (3) recreation, (4) self-improvement, (5) mere idleness, or (6) harmful practices. Nebraska farm people probably spend more time in the first two and less in the last two of these ways than most non-farm people. Just what is the best use of time depends on circumstances and must be a matter of opinion. The purpose here is mainly to show how time is actually used rather than how it ought to be used.

Sources of data.—Material from three surveys is presented in this bulletin. The basic one is a study of 342 unselected Nebraska farm homes made during the summer of 1924 in representative farming areas in Washington, Lancaster, Clay, and Kimball Counties. This survey is the source when not otherwise specified. Additional data are used from a questionnaire filled in by 343 crop-reporters' wives in 1919. These homes were scattered thruout the state as indicated in the map on the cover and may have been slightly above the average in enterprise if not in financial status. Data on musical instruments and community library facilities are included from a survey of 3,449 farm club women's homes studied by home demonstration agents in 1926, under the auspices of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. These clubs are probably somewhat above the farm average. Sources of other data introduced for comparison are given in footnotes.

¹ Based mainly on a survey conducted in the summer of 1924 in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, and described in Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 219. Acknowledgments are due to members of the University Departments of Rural Economics and Home Economics for counsel and suggestions, to one field worker in each area studied, and to Miss Eleanor Hinman and Miss Helen Christensen, whose aid in the preparation of the data for publication was invaluable. Especial aid was given in the interpretation of the data on children's use of time by Miss Hinman and Miss Blanche Graham, who did the field work in Lancaster County.

Tenure and expenditure.—Of the 342 farm homes studied in 1924, exactly a third were those of owners; about a sixth, homes of part-owners;² and nearly half, homes of tenants. Eight of the 342 were hired men's homes. The total cost of living of one-fourth was under \$1,200 per home, of two-fifths between \$1,200 and \$1,799, and of one-fourth \$1,800-\$2,499, while less than a tenth spent \$2,500 or more. Owner-operators did not deviate much from this average in distribution among the expenditure groups, but part-owners were much more largely concentrated in the higher and tenants in the middle expenditure groups. Almost all of the hired men fell in the lowest group.

The average expenditure per home for all home-making purposes was \$1,680. It was greater among part-owners than among either owners or tenants. This was because they had more and older children at home and a little more hired help or other adult population fed at the common table and perhaps otherwise supported, in part, from the family funds. The part-owner home spent \$438 per person. Owners spent \$440, tenants \$372, and hired men \$274.

With some exceptions, those who have the greatest incomes and surpluses have the best opportunities to spend less time at work and more in recreation, self-improvement, or leadership. Such opportunity may be spent in still further economic productivity on the one hand or in mere idleness on the other. Large income, of course, does not necessarily mean much leisure time. It may be the result of steady work wisely done. It must also be remembered that the expenditures reported in this study are not necessarily in proportion to income but rather in proportion to number of persons to be supported per household. It is also probable that those who spent the most time unproductively had less money to spend and therefore fell in the lower expenditure groups. Tenants with an average total expenditure of \$1,590 spent a little more time in recreation than the older part-owners whose annual total cost of living was \$2,550. Owners spent the most time and money on education and recreation in spite of the fact that their total cost of living was less than that of part-owners.

² The part-owner is a farmer who owns part of the land he farms and rents part from someone else. A mortgage on an owner's farm does not make him a part-owner. Thruout this bulletin owner means owner-operator and never refers to the landlord.

TABLE 1.—*Hours of daily work and recreation*¹

Activity	Home-makers			Farmers		
	Average	Summer	Winter	Average	Summer	Winter
Hours awake....	15.70	16.59	14.80	15.88	16.57	15.18
Work	10.74	12.27	9.20	11.11	12.74	9.48
Meals	1.40	.....	.....	1.38	.....	.....
Rest and recreation..	3.56	2.91	4.20	3.39	2.45	4.32
Daylight....	1.70	1.45	1.95	1.49	1.10	1.88
Evening....	1.86	1.47	2.25	1.90	1.35	2.44
Hours asleep....	8.30	7.41	9.20	8.12	7.43	8.82

¹ Based on 328 homes, except for the rest and recreation items which are based on the number reporting them. Rest and recreation time was reported in hours and minutes.

TABLE 2.—*Hours of beginning and quitting work and of retiring*

Activity	Home-makers			Farmers		
	Average	Summer	Winter	Average	Summer	Winter
Beginning work, a. m.....	6:00	5:15	6:45	5:52	5:15	6:30
Quitting work, p. m.....	7:50	8:22	7:18	7:51	8:28	7:15
Retiring, p. m...	9:42	9:50	9:33	9:45	9:49	9:41

Length of farm day.—Our main analysis of amount of time is based on the day, tho for some purposes the year, month, or week must be made the basis. The total day of 24 hours may be divided into the sleeping period and the waking period, which includes the working day so much discussed among city employees. Table 1 shows that work takes so much time that only three or four hours of the waking day are left for play or anything much like it. For both men and women the summer farm work day begins a little after five in the morning and ends at about eight-thirty in the evening. In winter the hours are from 6:30 or 6:45 a. m. to 7:15 p. m. The figures given by 326 Nebraska farm home-makers in 1924 seem to show that they had a slightly shorter work day than the men. Doubtless the men lost more time thru rainy

days, off seasons, and other similar causes. The husband rose 15 minutes earlier than his wife in winter but she rose equally early in summer, doubtless because he started the fires in winter but not in summer.

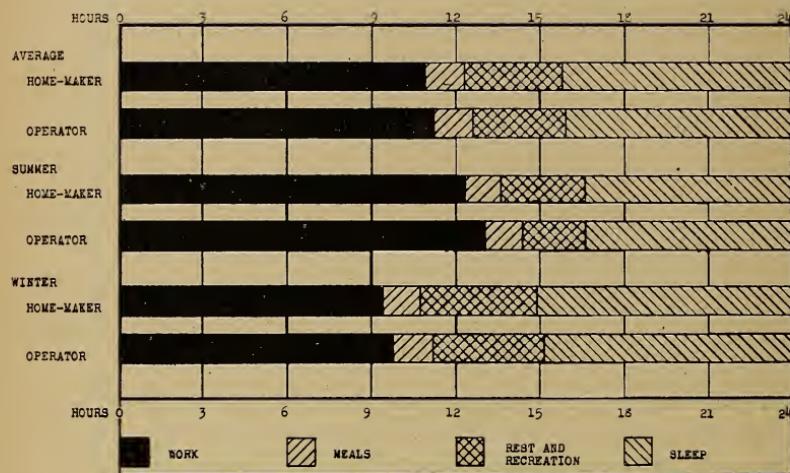


FIG. 1.—HOW THE DAY IS SPENT

The distribution of the time of a typical work day is shown, not of a Sunday, rainy day, or slack time day.

About half an hour was spent at each meal. The time was a little shorter at breakfast and a little longer at noon. The well-known solidarity of the farm family is indicated by the fact that every home reported all meals eaten with no member absent except at breakfast. A few of the homes in which there were very young children reported their absence from breakfast. Men and women took practically the same time for meals and evening recreation but women took a little more daylight recreation time.

Table 1 deals only with the typical day and gives no idea of the total number of work days per year. Viewed from this standpoint, woman's work is probably the more continuous altho the women did report more outings and vacations for themselves than for their husbands. As already suggested, housework goes on relatively unaffected by weather and season, which stop or reduce the men's farm work at times. Of course the farm woman's outdoor work in garden, poultry yard, and elsewhere is as seasonal as her husband's work. The 11-hour work day, shown by Table 1, includes not only field work, but chores, going to field, farm business, and all other things not to be classed as recreational.

Summer and winter.—The rising hour was from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours earlier in summer than in winter and recreation time about 2 hours less, so the work day was about 12 or 13 hours in summer tho less than 10 hours in winter. Doubtless there were many more days off in winter tho the data gathered only partly cover this point. They include vacations and outings but not days of enforced idleness due to bad weather, sickness, or lack of work. The time in bed was about 9 hours in winter but less than 8 hours in summer.

Tenure differences.—Owner, part-owner, and tenant farmers alike reported about a 15- or 16-hour waking day. The part-owners and tenants, however, worked a full hour longer than the owners. The difference was slightly greater in summer.

The part-owners' wives had the longest waking day (16 hours) and the longest work day. Their $11\frac{1}{2}$ -hour work day was half an hour longer than that of the tenants' wives and $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours longer than that of the owners' wives. They took less recreation time than either owners' or tenants' wives. The married hired men worked a little longer than the average farmer but only an hour longer in summer than in winter.

Area differences.—The west Nebraska area about Dix had a work day more than an hour longer than any other area. This was true of both men and women. In the Dix area the recreation time was very short, about 2 hours for both farmers and their wives. These peculiarities are doubtless to be explained by (1) its more recent settlement, (2) the difficulty of hiring help, and (3) the greater percentages of part-owners and tenants in this area.

Importance of increased leisure.—The farm people have not gained so much leisure as their city cousins and apparently they will not. In 1900 the average time spent in raising a bushel or a ton of a farm product had been reduced to a fifth of what it was in 1830.³ Still further economies have been effected since 1900 and much of the work once done by farm women is now done in factories. Farm leisure had not been increased proportionately, for the machinery used has in part been product-increasing rather than labor-saving machinery.

There has been some increase in leisure. Not all the time saved has been used in more field work or housework of new kinds, or in going to factories to make new products to meet new kinds of wants. Table 1 may give all the data needed for estimating the home-makers', but not the farmers', leisure time in hours per year. This table covers work days only. Sundays, rains, storms, vacations, and such other interruptions are not considered.

³ Quaintance, H. W. The influence of farm machinery. Am. Ec. Assn., V, 4, 29.

The average Nebraska farmer works about 2,400 hours a year.⁴ Of this time, 156 hours is on Sunday and the rest on such week days as are covered in Table 1. This gives 7.2 hours per week day but of course it is very unevenly distributed thru the year. On most Nebraska farms the great bulk of this 2,400 hours' work is done in the spring, summer, late fall, and early winter, leaving extended spare-time periods in the fall and winter months which might be much better utilized for educational or other advancement than has been true under past conditions.

TABLE 3.—*Away-from-home activity*¹

	Home-makers			Operators		
	All	Owners	Tenants	All	Owners	Tenants
<i>Percentage reporting</i>						
Neighborhood visiting.....	80.1	80.0	80.9	68.3	70.5	67.5
Outings, summer	43.8	44.0	44.7	42.1	44.0	42.3
Outings, winter.....	9.8	9.6	10.5	10.8	9.6	12.6
Church and Sunday School....	64.7	69.9	59.9	58.2	63.8	52.3
Community affairs.....	77.9	78.3	78.9	74.8	75.9	68.2
Movies, concerts, etc.	55.1	47.6	64.5	54.0	46.6	64.9
Trips to city.....	74.5	75.9	72.4	74.5	76.5	72.4
<i>Times yearly²</i>						
Neighborhood visiting.....	44.6	38.1	51.6	39.6	34.9	46.3
Outings, summer	13.5	12.7	14.6	13.5	12.7	14.4
Outings, winter.....	17.3	16.6	17.9	17.4	16.5	18.1
Church and Sunday School....	30.0	31.0	29.6	30.4	29.8	32.2
Community affairs.....	15.8	16.3	15.0	12.0	13.3	10.8
Movies, concerts, etc.	11.8	11.9	11.6	11.5	12.0	10.9
Trips to city.....	28.5	30.0	27.5	35.5	37.9	32.8

¹ Based on homes of 166 owners and part-owners, 152 tenants, and 8 hired men. The 8 hired men and their wives are included only in the "all" columns.

² Average per person reporting the specified activity.

Away-from-home activities.—Home activities are very important but they must be supplemented by outside contacts and experiences. Outstanding among these is neighborhood visiting. Four-fifths of the women and two-thirds of the men visited frequently with neighbors. Such visiting is the cheapest and easiest away-from-home activity. It involves a trip of only a third of a mile⁵ or less to reach the nearest neighbor.

⁴ Medlar, A. W. University of Nebraska, College of Agriculture, Department of Rural Economics. Unpublished estimates, supplied orally but verified in manuscript.

⁵ Nebraska farm tenancy. Some community phases. Uni. of Nebr. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 196. 1923. 24.

About as many owners' as tenants' households engaged in neighborly visiting but the tenants visited oftener. The hired man visited the neighbors much less than the other men. Wives visited about once a week but reported less visiting by their husbands.

Church-going stood next in frequency in the community life of nearly two-thirds of the women and over half of the men, as they attended two or three times a month—the men a very little oftener than their wives, who reported for both.

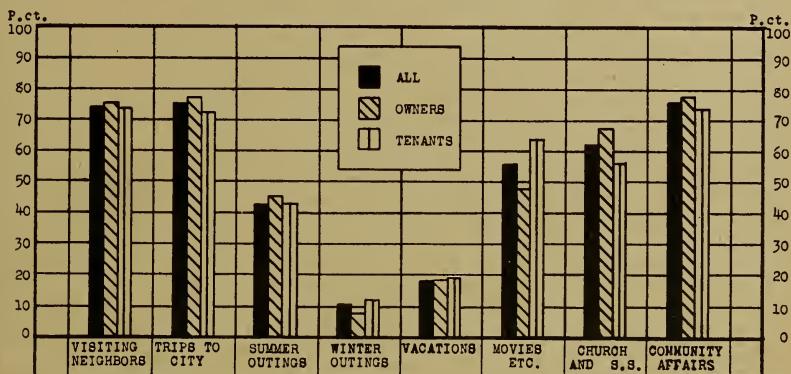


FIG. 2.—AWAY-FROM-HOME ACTIVITIES

The principal away-from-home use of time of both farmers and home-makers is (1) visiting neighbors, (2) going to town or city for community festivities, church, or movies, and (3) taking outings or vacations, in the order named. The farmers and home-makers differ very little on these points.

Community meetings, dinners, and celebrations claimed the attention of more men and women than church, but less frequently—only a little over once a month. A slightly larger percentage of women than of men attended these community affairs and they attended a little oftener. This was apparently due mainly to the larger attendance of women at school affairs, in which they seemed to take a livelier interest than the men, and to women's clubs, which met more frequently than the men's organizations. Owners and part-owners apparently gave church and Sunday school slightly more attention than did tenants. Somewhat lower percentages of hired men and their wives attended church at all, and those who did went less than 10 times a year.

Only about half frequented entertainments such as moving pictures, concerts, or lectures, and they went less than once a month. The figures for men and women are so nearly identical as to suggest that they practically always attended together.

The outings reported in the survey on which Table 3 is based are in addition to the vacations reported in Table 4, based in part on the same survey, and are in some ways more nearly comparable with the "days off" of the same table based on another survey made in 1919. Here again the figures for men and wives are so nearly identical as to suggest that their outings were practically always taken together. Summer outings including those in late spring and early fall were 3 or 4 times as frequent as winter outings. If distributed evenly over 6 months the 13 summer outings specified mean one every 2 weeks.

Trips to the city put farm people in touch with the world beyond the home community. They mean mainly trips to Omaha, Lincoln, or Kimball, in case of the areas studied. The men made 3 and their wives $2\frac{1}{2}$ such trips per month. These figures are far above the average for the state in number of trips and probably in percentage, too, because one of the areas is within 15 miles of Lincoln and the other within 20 miles of Omaha. Clay County percentages are about the same as those of the state, but the trips per year number only 6 or 7. In Kimball County less than one-fourth of the men and one-sixth of their wives reported city trips, but these went about 25 times each.

Both men and women in the Clay County area were engaged in away-from-home activities more than those in any other area studied. This is true of every item covered by Table 3 except winter outings and trips to city. It is true either because of or in spite of the fact that this area is more largely populated by older people whose children have in many cases left home. It is true whether we consider the outside contacts per person or the percentage of persons active in the various ways.

The Lancaster and Washington County areas showed more city contacts because they are located near Lincoln and Omaha respectively. The Kimball County area stood at the bottom of the list in outside contacts because of the greater distance to be traveled in this more sparsely settled western Nebraska region.

Distance from town.—The homes within 3 miles of trading centers engaged in away-from-home activities of the kinds listed more than those farther from town. This was true of every activity listed in Table 3 except visiting and winter outings. The difference was not very great in the case of outings, community affairs, and entertainments such as movies and plays. Church and Sunday School attendance showed the greatest effect of location near trading center in case of both men and women.

In the Washington and Clay County areas the homes were about equally divided between those within 3 miles of town and those at a distance of 3 miles or over. In Lancaster County 60 per cent and in Kimball County 95 per cent of the homes were 3 miles or more from town.

TABLE 4.—*Vacations and days off*

<i>Over</i>	All ¹	Owners	Part-owners	Tenants
Home-makers, 1919.....	336	216	7	113
1924.....	338	113	58	159
Vacations, 1919 (<i>per cent</i>).....	3.6	3.7	0.0	3.5
1924	16.0	15.0	20.7	17.0
Days vacation, 1919.....	19.3	21.6	0.0	14.2
1924.....	9.7	10.8	7.3	10.2
Days off, 1919 (<i>per cent</i>).....	60.7	60.6	71.5	60.2
Number of days	13.3	13.7	9.0	12.9
Farmers, 1924.....	339	113	58	160
Vacations (<i>per cent</i>).....	14.4	12.4	19.0	14.5
Days taken.....	8.2	9.3	7.5	7.8

¹ The "all" column includes 8 hired men's homes not listed elsewhere. Only 1 of these reported a vacation, which was a week long.

VACATIONS AND DAYS OFF

Vacations in 1924.—Only about a sixth of the farmers and their wives took vacations in 1924 and they took little more than a week. A few more women than men took vacations and the women took somewhat longer ones, but the differences were slight. In most homes, farmer and home-maker took their vacation together. Only four families without automobiles reported any vacations. Some of the trips taken largely for business and educational purposes were reported as vacations.

Days off and vacations in 1919.—Farm home-makers take days off rather than vacations, according to data from the 1919 survey presented in Table 4. Three home-makers out of five took days off but only one out of 28 took a vacation. Wives of owners and those of tenants seemed practically identical in all these particulars except that the owners' wives took longer vacations in the few cases in which they took any. More than a third took neither vacations nor days off.

Vacations and days off were taken to about the same extent in all parts of the state. They were a little more frequent in the eastern part. In Saunders and Seward Counties one home out of 20 reported a vacation. The average length was 2

weeks. Two-thirds of all the home-makers in this region who did not take vacations took days off amounting on the average to 11 days a year. In Scotts Bluff County two-fifths of the home-makers reported that they took neither vacations nor days off and only one home-maker out of 62 took days off, but those who did averaged 15 days a year.

TABLE 5.—*Home-makers' indoor work*¹

Percentages doing specified kinds of work

	Home-makers of				
	All	Owners	Part-owners	Tenants	Hired men
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Bake all bread.....	88.5	87.7	84.6	90.2	100.0
Part	10.0	10.4	15.4	8.9	0.0
Washing	97.9	97.6	92.3	99.1	100.0
Ironing	99.7	99.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sewing	98.0	97.6	92.3	100.0	100.0
Own underwear	74.6	73.6	69.2	78.6	0.0
All	14.4	16.0	0.0	13.4	0.0
Part	60.2	57.6	69.2	65.2	0.0
None	25.4	26.4	30.8	21.4	100.0
Own outergarments.....	93.8	92.9	92.3	95.5	100.0
All	24.2	23.1	23.1	26.8	0.0
Part	69.6	69.8	69.2	68.7	100.0
None	6.2	7.1	7.7	4.5	0.0
Men's clothing	19.5	20.8	7.7	18.6	0.0
Part	19.5	20.8	7.7	18.6	0.0
None	80.2	79.2	92.3	80.3	100.0
Children's clothing	72.9	68.4	76.9	80.3	100.0
All	29.5	27.4	30.8	33.0	50.0
Part	43.4	41.0	46.1	47.3	50.0
None	5.8	7.5	7.7	2.7	0.0
No children under 16	21.3	24.1	15.4	17.0	0.0
Repairing any clothing	82.6	79.7	92.3	86.6	100.0

¹ Based on homes of 212 owners, 13 part-owners, 112 tenants, and 2 hired men studied in 1919.

HOME-MAKERS' INDOOR WORK

All are busy.—Practically every Nebraska farm home-maker bakes, washes, irons, and sews, if the 1919 sample shown in Table 5 is representative. If it is not, it is likely to show more purchase of ready-to-wear garments and other use of money to lighten home work than is now typical because the data (1) are of a period at which farmers felt more

prosperous, and (2) were secured from the wives of crop-reporters whose homes are doubtless above the average. They show very little difference between the homes of owners and the homes of tenants on all points covered by the table. Part of the few who hired their washing done did all or part of their own ironing.

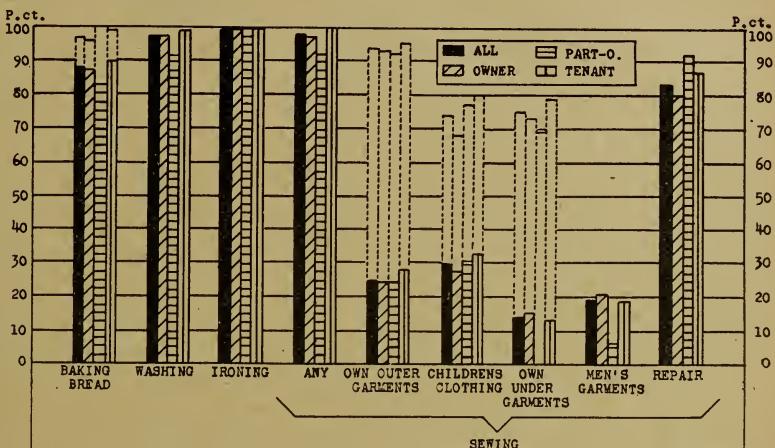


FIG. 3.—INDOOR WORK

Practically all Nebraska farm home-makers bake, wash, iron, and sew. A large majority make part of the clothing for the household, but few or none make it all. The dotted lines indicate those who do some but not all of the home baking and sewing of the specified kinds. Since 1919 there has undoubtedly been an increased use of bakers' bread in the farm homes.

Sewing.—About 3 out of 4 made all or part of their children's clothes and their own underwear, 6 out of 7 mended, and 19 out of 20 made at least part of their own outer garments, but only a fifth made any men's clothes. Seven out of 10 housewives made some children's clothing and 3 of these 7 made it all. One in 5 of these housewives reported no children under 16 years and only 6 per cent had children but made none of their clothing — only 3 per cent among tenants. The proportion of childless homes increases as we go from tenant to owner and the percentages making all or part of their children's clothes decrease. Comparatively few made all the clothing of any of the specified classes. The percentages did not differ significantly from area to area. In a district where fewer women made their outer garments, more made undergarments or children's garments.

Data for 1924, not included in any table yet published, indicate that the average farm woman made about 15 garments per year. The wives of hired men made about half this many per home and the wives of tenants made more than those of

owners. About one-fourth reported that they made less than 9 garments and a third that they made from 9 to 16, while one home-maker out of 14 reported that she made more than 32 garments a year. In this number handkerchiefs and other similar small articles are not included.

TABLE 6.—*Percentages keeping accounts*¹

	<i>Omit</i> All	Owners	<i>Omit</i> Part- owners	Tenants
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Homes keeping accounts.....	55.9	57.9	76.9	48.6
Home-makers help	35.0	36.1	38.5	33.3
Household accounts	31.2	31.6	38.5	29.1
Wives record egg sales.....	50.9	54.0	38.3	42.6

¹ Based on 216 owner, 13 part-owner, and 111 tenant homes which reported in 1919; for example on 35 per cent of all farms home-makers helped keep farm accounts.

ACCOUNTS

Farm accounts.—Farm accounts keeping was part of the work of more than half of the farms covered by the 1919 survey. More than a third of the wives were keeping these accounts or helping their husbands keep them—more than half the wives in the homes in which farm accounts were kept. In other words, 7 out of every 11 sets of farm accounts were kept altogether or in part by the housewife.

Household accounts.—Household accounts were kept in fully a third of the homes of owners and in more than a third of the homes of part-owners. It may be assumed that they were entirely the work of home-makers.

No information was secured as to the completeness of the farm and household accounts kept, but accounts of some sort were quite widely tho far from universally kept. Since 1919 the practice has doubtless increased because of the continued work of the farm press, agricultural extension service workers, and other influences. Half of the women kept accounts of egg sales.

TABLE 7.—*Home-makers' outdoor work*
Percentage doing each kind of work¹

	<i>Own</i> All	<i>Own</i> Owners	<i>Own</i> Part- owners	Tenants
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Care of chickens.....	91.5	90.1	91.7	93.9
Milk	41.5	40.4	33.3	44.3
Wash milk pails	93.8	95.8	100.0	69.6
Wash separator.....	87.6	87.8	91.7	87.0
Make butter.....	77.4	79.8	91.7	71.3
Have garden	95.9	96.2	91.0	95.7
Tend garden.....	79.1	77.9	83.3	80.9
Care of live stock.....	22.4	21.6	8.3	25.2
Field work	17.1	18.8	16.7	13.9

¹ Based on homes of 213 owners, 12 part-owners, and 115 tenants studied in 1919.

HOME-MAKERS' OUTDOOR WORK

Nine out of 10 Nebraska crop-reporters' home-makers did the poultry work for flocks averaging 123 chickens each in 1919. The average on all farms in the state was 93 in 1920 and 106 in 1925.⁶ In 1924, 159 chickens were raised per farm, mainly, doubtless, by the farm women.

Two women out of every 5 helped milk an average of 7 cows per farm. The average number of cows milked per farm for the entire state was 4.4 in 1925.⁷ Figures for other years are not at hand.

Nearly 19 out of 20 women washed milk pails on farms averaging 6 cows each; nearly 9 out of 10 washed separators; and 4 out of 5 made butter.

Nineteen out of 20 had gardens and 4 out of 5 tended them. Presumably they meant that they did most of the garden work after the ground was plowed. About a fifth helped care for live stock aside from their poultry work and milking, and a sixth helped with field work for about a month each year.

These data are from crop-reporters' homes, which were probably above the average in economic status, but cover a year of shortage of male farm help due to the effects of the war wages in drawing farm men to the city and to the army demands on the young men of the farms.

⁶ Agriculture: Reports for the states. The northern states. Fourteenth census of the U. S., Vol. VI, Part I, p. 686, 1920. Washington.

The northern states. United States census of agriculture, Part I, p. 1148, 1925. Washington.

⁷ The northern states. United States census of agriculture, Part I, p. 1148, 1925. Washington.

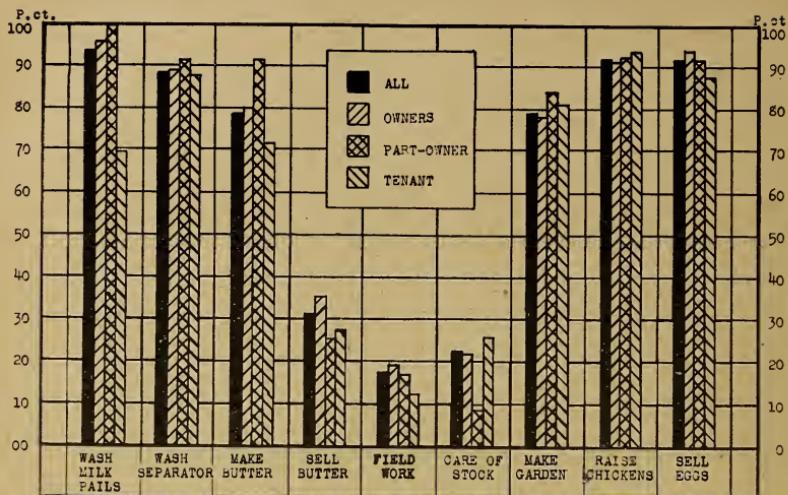


FIG. 4.—HOME-MAKERS' OUTDOOR WORK

In 1919 from four-fifths to nineteen-twentieths of the women were doing dairy, poultry, and garden work but only a fifth were doing field work or caring for stock.

In general the reports show less outdoor work done by farm women in western than in eastern Nebraska. They seem to do most in the central part of the state.

In all districts most of the women worked at chicken raising. The range was from 71.4 per cent in the northwest district to 97.4 per cent in the central district. The number of chickens kept by each woman varied from 101 in the west district to 153 in the east.

In all districts the women washed practically all the milk pails and most of the separators but left the milking mainly to the men. This was most commonly true in the west district where about a fifth of the women helped milk 6 cows per farm. It was least true in the southwest district where 3 women out of every 5 helped milk an average of 9 cows per farm.

About one woman out of 16 reported field work in 1919, a year of labor shortage. In the central district more than one-fourth worked an average of 6 weeks each per year and in the northeast about a fifth worked an average of 5 weeks.

Nearly all these farm women sold eggs or poultry, and many sold both. The wives of owners reported egg sales a little more generally than those of tenants.

TABLE 8.—*Hired help*¹

	All	Owners	Part-owners	Tenants
Families hiring men (<i>per cent</i>)....	41.4	40.2	33.3	44.6
Hired men per family hiring.....	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1
Families boarding hired men (<i>per cent</i>).....	38.1	36.4	33.3	42.0
Months boarded.....	7.3	7.4	5.8	7.2
Families hiring extra helpers (<i>per cent</i>).....	65.5	65.0	58.3	67.0
Helpers per family hiring.....	5.8	6.2	4.7	5.0
Families boarding helpers (<i>per cent</i>).....	61.9	62.7	41.7	62.5
Three meals a day (<i>per cent</i>)....	44.1	44.5	25.0	45.5
Weeks per home boarding.....	5.0	4.3	4.0	6.4
Dinners only (<i>per cent</i>).....	17.8	18.2	16.7	17.0
Weeks per home boarding.....	3.0	2.6	21.5	1.8
Families hiring a girl (<i>per cent</i>)..	4.2	4.3	8.3	3.6
Months	5.7	5.8	2.0	5.0
By day.....	2.7	2.9	0.0	2.6
Days per month.....	2.5	3.3	0.0	2.0

¹ All percentages based on homes of 209 owners, 12 part-owners, and 112 tenants in 1919, as 100 per cent.

HIRED HELP

About two-fifths of the crop-reporters' wives reported that they had hired men for whom to cook. A few hired men were married and some even boarded the unmarried hired men but most of these were boarded by the employer — over 7 months a year on the average.

Special harvest, threshing, and other similar needs caused the employment of additional helpers for farm work on each of two-thirds (65.5 per cent) of the farms for about 5 weeks per farm employing. Of these helpers about two-thirds (on 44.1 per cent of all farms) were given 3 meals a day and the remainder only their noon meals, doubtless because they got the other 2 at home, on nearby farms, or in the nearest towns.

A "hired girl" was employed in one home out of 25 — about half the year. One home out of 37 had a woman come in by the day $2\frac{1}{2}$ days a month. Doubtless most of this help was employed during the busy crop season. As none of the household help hired by the day went into homes that had "hired girls" at the same or other times of the year, less than 7 per cent of the homes ever hired any help for the house. This is not meant to suggest on the one hand that equal amounts should necessarily be spent on field and house help,

or on the other hand that the work of home-making is not economically productive. It is as truly so as work in the field or factory even tho its income is in the form of human welfare instead of dollars in the bank. Both are economically productive but otherwise so different as to be difficult to compare.⁸

Larger percentages of the tenants had hired men, doubtless because they had larger farms and planted larger percentages of their acreages to tilled crops.⁹ There was less difference in percentages hiring extra help at harvest, threshing, and other busy times. Part-owners were much below the average in percentage reporting regular hired men but above in percentage hiring girls. They employed domestic help only about a third as many months per year as the average, altho the household was much larger than that of the owner or tenant. The part-owner families averaged 4.6 persons as compared with 3.8 in owners' homes and 4.3 among tenants as shown in Table 18 on page 42 below.

District variations.—Hired men were scarcest in the northwest and central districts, where only one home in 3 reported any; and most common in the west and northeast districts, where half had such helpers.

In the west district about one-tenth of the farms which had regular hired men let them board themselves. Men employed for shorter periods than those included under the term of hired men were commonest in the northwest and central districts. These are the districts which had the fewest hired men. Three-fourths of the farms in this area had extra helpers. Even they sometimes boarded themselves.

Household help was commonest in the northwest, where one family in 12 hired a woman by the day, and in the west where one family in 15 had some help, half having hired girls and the other half women by the day. Hired girls were commonest in the central district, where one family in 20 reported them, but for only about 5 weeks a year.

⁸ Leeds, John B. The household budget. 234 West School Lane, Germantown, Pa., Chaps. 1 and 7.

⁹ Tenure and farm investment in Nebraska. Univ. of Nebr. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 205, 18.

The northern states. U. S. census of Agr. 1925. I. 1122.

TABLE 9.—*Hired men, hired girls, and visitors*¹
Percentages of farms reporting and numbers per farm affected

Item	All	Owners	Part-owners	Tenants
Percentage of farms hiring men....	22.1	15.8	28.3	24.4
Men per farm hiring.....	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.9
Hired man weeks per farm.....	33.5	26.3	44.2	32.2
Percentage of homes hiring girls....	5.9	4.3	6.6	6.9
Girls per home hiring	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.0
Hired girl weeks per home hiring	12.6	12.7	18.7	10.2
Percentage of homes having visitors	21.9	12.3	33.3	24.3
Visitors per home.....	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.5
Visitor weeks per home.....	35.5	43.7	35.7	32.5

¹ Percentages are based on homes of 114 owners, 60 part-owners, and 160 tenants in 1924.

Included with visitors are 5 boarders.

Included in "Farms hiring men" are 9 which gave no definite number of weeks in the household.

EXTRA PEOPLE TO BOARD

We have just discussed the hired help employed to lighten the burdens of farmer and home-maker, or to enable them to accomplish more work than would be possible without aid. We come now to a consideration of such help and visitors as extra people in the household to be boarded at an additional cost of time and money. In only one home out of every 17 in 1924 was there extra help for the home-maker. In the 20 homes which did have such household help, it was employed nearly 13 weeks, or less than a quarter of a year. In about a fourth of the homes there were hired men to board and in a fifth there were visitors to board and entertain. Sometimes, doubtless, such visitors were good helpers but often an added burden, however delightful to entertain. Neither hired men nor visitors were continuously present but each was present in the homes involved to the extent of an additional person per household about two-thirds of the time.

Included among the visitors were the sons and daughters who had established homes elsewhere but were home for a month or two. A relative staying all year was regarded as a visitor. Part-owners kept more additional people of these 3 classes than either owners or tenants, but the difference was not very great.

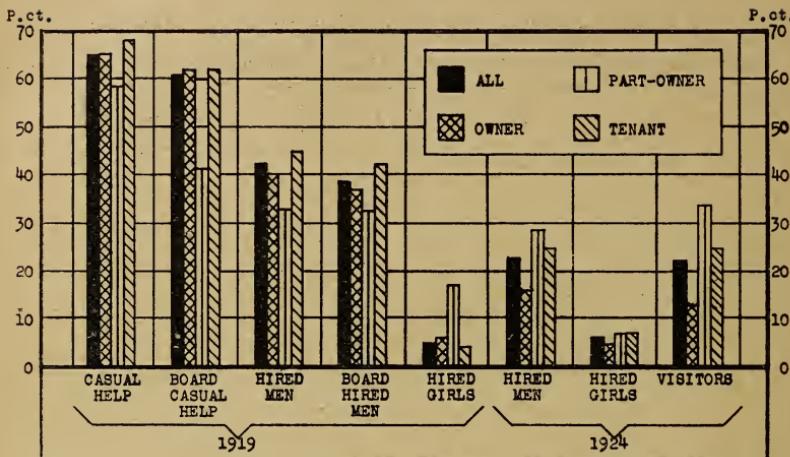


FIG. 5.—VISITORS AND HIRED HELP

Regular and casual or occasional hired men make additional work for the home-maker. Visitors sometimes lighten and sometimes increase the burden.

TABLE 10.—*Sickness and invalids*¹

	All	Owners	Part-owners	Tenants
Families having sickness (per cent) ²	70.9	69.3	83.3	72.3
Persons sick per family ²	3.1	3.0	4.1	3.0
Days sickness per family ³	26.4	26.2	42.3	24.8
Per person sick.....	8.4	8.2	10.3	8.2
Families having invalids or aged (per cent) ²	4.8	4.7	8.3	4.5
Disabled persons per family ⁴	1.4	1.1	1.0	2.0
Wholly disabled.....	0.4	0.2	0.0	1.0
Partially disabled.....	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0

¹ Based on 333 homes of 209 owners, 12 part-owners, and 112 tenants in 1919.

² Percentage of all families.

³ Per family reporting sickness.

⁴ Per family reporting any persons wholly or partially unable to care for themselves thru sickness or old age.

SICKNESS AND INVALIDISM

As a use of time.—Sickness and invalidism have 3 effects upon the use of time: (1) the sufferer loses time, (2) so does the nurse who cares for him, and (3) the after effects may reduce capacity for work or enjoyment.

The sick.—About 29 per cent of all families had passed the 12 months without any illness in bed. At least only 71.

per cent of the housewives remembered any such illness and included it in reports. In these houses, about 3 persons per family had suffered sickness sufficiently serious to be reported as illness in bed, amounting to 26.4 days per family or 8.4 days per person sick. The percentage sick and the amount of sickness were distinctly higher in part-owners' homes than in those of either owners or tenants. This is in harmony with data secured from about 1,000 other farm homes.¹⁰ It arises in part perhaps from the fact that the part-owners are operating more land with less field help than either owners or tenants, and in part from the greater number of children, invalids, and aged found in these homes.

Invalids.—About 1 home out of every 20 reported the presence of one or more persons who were either totally or partially unable to care for themselves. This includes both illness and old age. Only one such person per home reporting invalids and aged was found among owners and part-owners as compared with 2 persons among tenants. It is impossible to determine from the schedules secured how much of this is due to old age and how much to other causes but as tenants and part-owners are distinctly younger than full owners, it is possible that their homes contain more elderly people than the homes of owner-operators who average about 45 years of age.

District variations.—Sickness was commonest in the northwest district where 5 homes in 6 reported 3.6 persons sick—an average of 30 person-days per home or about 8 days per person. It was least frequent in the southeast district, where 2 homes out of 3 reported 1.3 persons sick an average of 17.5 days per home.

This fairly uniform decrease in prevalence and severity of illness from northwest to southeast suggests that exposure to the cold of the north and the housing conditions on many of the newer farms of the west are factors in this problem of illness. Improvement of farm housing, heating, and sanitation would doubtless reduce the illness record. Other factors in the west are longer hours, greater fatigue, and fewer doctors, nurses, and hospitals.

¹⁰ The Nebraska farm family. Univ. of Nebr. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 185. 29-30.

TABLE 11.—*Percentages of homes having pianos, phonographs, and radios*¹

District	Pianos	Phonographs	Radios
All	46.7	35.4	33.8
Northeast.....	51.4	33.6	25.2
West	40.7	32.8	26.8
Central	46.3	33.7	29.2
East	49.0	35.7	43.0
Southwest	46.7	42.7	22.7
South	48.3	38.8	33.5
Southeast	44.4	32.6	40.5

¹ Based on 3,449 homes distributed among the districts thus: northeast 274, west 317, central 617, east 818, southwest 395, south 358, and southeast 669.

SOME EQUIPMENT FOR ENJOYMENT

Enjoyment as a use of time.—We have seen that a normal use of time includes periods and provides equipment for enjoyment. Some time is used in days off, vacations, and many other ways for the maintenance of morale. We are now ready to consider some of the items of equipment used for the same purpose.¹¹

Radio sets.—Radio sets were found in a third of all the club women's farm homes studied. The schedule was so framed as to include both crystal and tube sets without any possible separation of the two in tabulation. The fraction fell as low as a quarter in the western, southwestern, and northeastern districts and rose as high as two-fifths in the east and southeast.

Radio is being introduced into Nebraska farm homes so rapidly that figures are out of date before they can be printed. The first comprehensive Nebraska figures were obtained in 1923 when only 567 Nebraska farm homes, or one out of every 224, could boast the possession of a tube set. In 1925 the percentage was 9.9 or 20 times as great, in 1926, 16.9 or one home out of every 5 or 6, and in 1927 25.4.¹²

The radio is peculiarly adapted to the needs of the farm home because it supplies amusement, information, instruction, and inspiration without taking the listeners away. The radio message comes into the home best at the time of year when

¹¹ The Nebraska farm portion of the study was made under the direction of Miss Mary Ellen Brown in charge of the Home Demonstration work done by the University of Nebraska Agricultural Extension Service. The field work was done by Misses Florence J. Atwood, Theresa L. Judge, Helen A. Rocke, and Muriel L. Smith and Mrs. Edith Martin Coe.

¹² Nebraska agricultural statistics: 1927. U. S. Dept. of Agr. and Nebr. State Dept. of Agr. cooperating. 35.
U. S. census of Agr., 1925. I. 9.

farm people have most time to listen and find it least pleasant to be away from home. It performs in somewhat different ways the five functions sometimes attributed to the press: (1) conservation of past knowledge of farming and home-making, (2) progress thru the spread of newly discovered facts and methods, (3) an advertising medium helping to determine when, where, how, and what to buy and sell, (4) recreation, pleasure, and relaxation, and (5) development of a healthy class consciousness without bitterness toward those of other classes or creeds. When we hear those of other sections, political parties, and industries often enough we eventually learn that they also are pretty good folks with reasons for believing as they do.¹³

Phonographs and pianos.—The phonograph was found in almost exactly a third of the homes in every district except the south and southwest districts where the fraction was about two-fifths. The highest fraction appeared in the southwest district where the radio percentage was lowest, suggesting that the radio and the phonograph are to some extent competitors. Pianos were available in nearly half of the club women's farm homes in every district. A 1920 survey of 1,141 Nebraska farm homes thought to be reasonably representative, showed pianos in only one-third of the homes and phonographs in only one-sixth. In addition, it discovered organs in one-sixth of the homes, a violin in one out of 15, an accordion in one out of 60, and miscellaneous musical instruments of other kinds in one out of every 30 homes. No information about radios was gathered in 1920. Some kind of musical instrument was found in the homes of 4 out of every 5 owners and part-owners, of two-thirds of the tenants, and of a third of the managers.¹⁴ Half of the representative homes studied in 1920 had either pianos or organs. The 1926 schedule did not provide for the separate listing of numerous musical instruments. It is possible that a woman asked in 1926 whether she had a piano but not asked about the organ said, "Yes," whether she had an organ or piano, since she regarded them as filling substantially the same place in the home. On the other hand, the difference may indicate a real increase in ownership of pianos and phonographs in these 6 years, or it may merely mean that the club women's homes are above the average in this particular.

¹³ Reading matter in Nebraska farm homes. Univ. of Nebr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 180, 7-10.

¹⁴ Nebraska farm tenancy. Some community phases. Nebr. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 196, 32-37.

TABLE 12.—*Communication and recreational facilities*
Farm and town homes compared

	Farm homes	Under 1,000	1,000-2,500	2,500-5,000	5,000-10,000	10,000-25,000	Omaha
Homes surveyed	3,449	...	...	...	...	...	...
Towns surveyed.....	....	66	36	14	9	5	....
Per cent having:							
Telephones	87	70	75	61	73	55	59
Automobiles	96	67	69	50	64	61	54
Pianos	47	43	49	30	34	29	....
Phonographs	35	29	34	22	26	25	....
Radio sets.....	34	22	23	18	27	16	....
Library facilities ¹	41	86	97	100	100	100	100

¹ Public library in case of town homes. The farm figures include those who specified town libraries or "good" facilities in answer to question, "What are the library facilities of your community?"

COMMUNICATION AND RECREATION

Farm and city compared.—Nebraska farms appeared to be more generally provided with individually owned communication and recreational facilities than town and city homes. This was particularly true of telephones and automobiles. The smaller the town, in general, the larger the percentage of the people who owned these means of communication. The country stood far ahead of the small town in both items. It also stood distinctly above the towns and cities in percentages of the homes equipped with pianos, phonographs, and radio sets, but far below them in percentage having access to library facilities. All these items except library facilities are discussed on other pages, so no further details need be given here.

Community library facilities.—“What are the library facilities of your community?” asked the Federated Women’s Club schedule. The answers were given from so many different points of view as to be valuable but not reducible to tabular form. About two-fifths of the home-makers seemed to feel that they had access to good or fair community library facilities, more than a third of them to town libraries, and more than a tenth to school libraries. About a third reported that they had access to no library facilities or only to poor ones. About one out of every 65 reported access to a club library, which is usually not very extensive, altho some club libraries in the state have become reasonably good collections of books from which community libraries have been developed. A few reported that they had access to the traveling library

sent out by the State Library Commission, while others reported that they had access to no libraries at all except their own. A very few mentioned church and Sunday school libraries.

Nebraska has a county library law permitting local governmental units to vote upon this system, which is undoubtedly the most economical method of meeting farmers' book needs adequately. Information with regard to it may be secured from the Nebraska Public Library Commission, Lincoln, Nebraska. The Home and Community Department of the American Farm Bureau Federation in December, 1927, resolved that: "Whereas, there is need for better educational facilities among rural people, we do hereby endorse the county library plan of making books available to rural people."

The National Grange in November, 1923, similarly resolved: "Whereas, public libraries have become such an important factor in the social life of the towns and cities; and, whereas, those living in the villages and on the farms are deprived of library service because of the much greater proportional cost under such conditions; therefore, Be It Resolved, That the National Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, approves of the County Library plan, which has proven very successful in Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, and many other states, and hopes to see it universally adopted."

Opportunities neglected.—Only 7 or 8 per cent of the 342 homes studied in 1924 had borrowed any books or other reading matter from any source and only about 6 per cent from libraries. This is in spite of the fact that 3 of the 4 areas studied were within easy driving distance of libraries located in towns in which they did most, if not all, of their shopping. Both Fairfield and Clay Center have libraries and are doubtless the towns in which practically all the shopping is done for the homes studied in the Clay County area. One of the other areas is close to Lincoln and another to Omaha and each has smaller town libraries nearer. The librarians of the state almost universally say that they welcome farmer readers or borrowers even tho they come from outside the territory that is taxing itself to support the library. When the contact between the farm people and the library has once been made, farm people are excellent library patrons, as indicated by the experience of the Shelton Township Library.¹⁵

¹⁵ Reading matter in Nebraska farm homes. Nebr. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 180, 25-26.

TABLE 13.—*Periodicals taken*Percentages of homes¹

	All	Owner	Part-owner	Tenant	Hired man
Papers:					
Farm	57.6	69.3	48.3	54.4	25.0
Two or more.....	22.2	21.9	25.0	22.5	0.0
Daily	79.2	82.5	85.0	75.6	62.5
Two or more.....	6.7	4.4	8.3	8.1	0.0
Weekly (news)	70.2	73.7	76.7	65.6	62.5
Two or more.....	29.8	37.8	35.0	23.1	12.5
Magazines:					
Family	34.8	43.9	33.3	28.1	50.0
Two or more.....	12.6	17.6	6.7	10.7	25.0
Women's	33.6	36.8	26.7	35.0	12.5
Two or more.....	8.2	8.7	5.0	9.4	12.5
Children's	7.3	7.0	15.0	5.0	0.0
Unspecified	7.9	5.3	8.3	10.0	0.0
None	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.3	12.5

¹ Based on homes of 114 owners, 60 part-owners, 160 tenants, and 8 hired men.

READING MATTER PURCHASED

Mainly periodicals, not books.—About 99 per cent of the 342 farm homes studied in 1924 furnished lists of periodical publications which they took, but only 3.5 per cent reported the purchase of any books except school books during the preceding 12 months. This, together with the failure to use the available library facilities, indicates that the farm people are readers of papers mainly, magazines somewhat, and books hardly at all.

Papers exceed magazines.—Farm papers and daily and weekly newspapers were much more generally taken than family, women's or children's magazines, altho the magazines and weekly newspapers were taken by much larger percentages of the homes studied in 1924 than of those studied in 1920, when only a fifth reported general or family magazines as compared with a third in 1924. Children's magazines made a much higher showing in the later survey, but even it indicated that only one home out of 13 received any magazine intended primarily for children. Women's magazines were taken by about a third of the homes covered in each of the surveys. Among the papers, the weekly newspapers made a much higher showing in the 1924 survey. The daily papers did not make a very different showing, altho the opinion had been expressed by students of the 1920 figures that daily

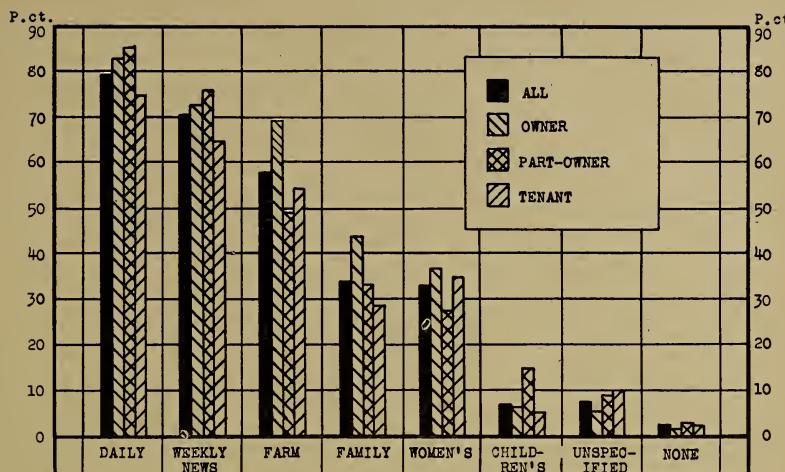


FIG. 6.—NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

Larger percentages of the homes were receiving children's, women's, and family magazines in 1924 than in 1920. The 1924 figures are shown here and the 1920 figures in Figure 2 of Bulletin 180 of this series.

papers stood very high in circulation in 1920 because their columns were so much in demand during war time that the daily paper habit still prevailed in 1920 in homes which had not had it before; some, however, were expected to lose it. Over three-fourths of the homes studied in 1920 listed farm papers taken as compared with less than three-fifths in 1924. One can only conjecture whether this reflects (1) a really general reduction in subscriptions to farm papers due perhaps to a feeling of inability to afford any expenditure even for a farm paper following the severe agricultural depression, (2) a chance variation due to difference in localities studied, or (3) difference in the main point of view of the survey itself. The 1920 survey undertook to cover all papers received regardless of who paid for them. The 1924 survey emphasized cost of living along all lines and obtained most of its answers in terms of money. This might have caused many to report only papers for which they paid and omit those farm papers which were sent by commission men, banks, or other similar agencies to their patrons. It is also possible that these agencies were no longer sending farm papers in this way as generally as at the earlier time.

FARM CHILDREN'S USE OF TIME

The farm child normally gives more of its time to play and formal education than it will when it has grown up. Each is worthy of much more extended study than is here possible.

Our attention is directed mainly to home use of time. More space might properly have been given to the farm child's home play but the subject is too intimate and complicated in many of its phases for study with the means at hand.

TABLE 14.—*Kind of work done*

Percentages¹ of boys (B) and girls (G) who did work of each kind

Kind of work	4-21		4-6		7-11		12-14		15-21	
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
Any home work.....	62.6	70.1	18.0	30.2	67.8	81.4	89.7	87.1	97.0	92.6
Farm work.....	58.5	28.4	16.0	3.8	61.0	30.2	86.2	38.7	93.9	59.3
Care of animals.....	46.8	10.7	6.0	3.8	49.2	14.0	72.4	16.1	81.8	7.4
Gardening	21.6	20.8	4.0	1.9	20.3	17.4	44.8	32.2	30.3	55.6
Other chores	45.0	8.1	12.0	1.9	59.6	11.6	58.6	12.9	60.6	3.7
House work	9.4	66.5	6.0	26.4	10.2	77.9	20.7	87.9	3.0	85.2
Washing	2.3	24.4	2.0	7.5	3.4	19.8	3.4	35.5	0.0	59.3
Ironing	0.6	30.5	0.0	1.9	1.7	33.7	0.0	61.3	0.0	77.8
Sweeping and dusting.....	0.6	46.2	0.0	17.0	1.7	43.0	0.0	74.2	0.0	81.5
Churning	1.8	27.4	0.0	3.8	5.1	24.4	0.0	51.6	0.0	55.6
Help with meals.....	3.5	50.8	4.0	15.1	5.1	57.0	3.4	74.2	0.0	74.1
Care of younger children.....	4.7	34.5	2.0	13.2	3.4	44.2	13.8	45.2	3.0	33.3
Other house work.....	0.6	33.5	0.0	7.5	1.7	32.6	0.0	48.4	0.0	70.4
Work away from home.....	5.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	10.3	3.2	18.2	3.7
On farm	5.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	10.3	3.2	18.2	3.7
In town.....	0.0	0.5	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0
Over 10 miles away.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
No home work.....	37.4	29.9	82.0	69.8	32.2	18.6	10.3	12.9	3.0	7.4
No work of any kind.....	36.9	29.9	82.0	69.8	32.2	18.6	10.3	12.9	0.0	7.4

¹ Based upon 171 boys and 197 girls—50 and 53 in the 4-6-year-old group; 59 and 86, 7-11; 29 and 31, 12-14; and 33 and 27 boys and girls respectively in the 15-21-year-old group.

KINDS OF WORK DONE

Most children work.—Two-thirds of 368 Nebraska farm children over 3 years of age did some daily work at home; 95 per cent of those over 14; 88.3 per cent of those 12 to 14 years; 75.9 per cent of those 7 to 11; and 24.3 per cent of those 4 to 6 years old. Twelve children, or one-thirtieth of all, worked on neighboring farms, and one of the 12 also worked in the neighboring town. Seven of these children were over 15 years old and 4 were from 12 to 14 years old. All but one of them also helped on home farms.

A somewhat larger proportion of girls than of boys did daily work—70.1 per cent of the girls as compared with 63.1 per cent of the boys. The girls seem to have started a little

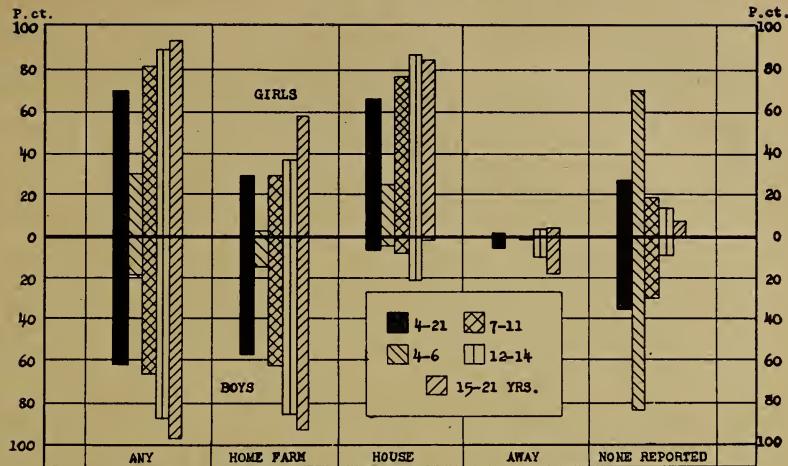


FIG. 7.—BOYS' AND GIRLS' WORK AT HOME AND ELSEWHERE

Most children over 6 worked at home, but few worked away from home except among the 15-21-year-old boys.

younger. Of 171 farm boys, 62.6 per cent worked at home and 5.8 per cent worked away from home.

Kind of work.—Nearly three-fifths of the boys did outdoor work, but less than a tenth worked indoors. The indoor work of boys was mainly in connection with care of younger children and in daughterless homes. Outdoor work was largely done by the older boys, including 93.9 per cent of all those over 14 years of age. This work was principally the care of animals and "other chores," altho much gardening was done by those of all age groups, especially the 12-to-14-year group.

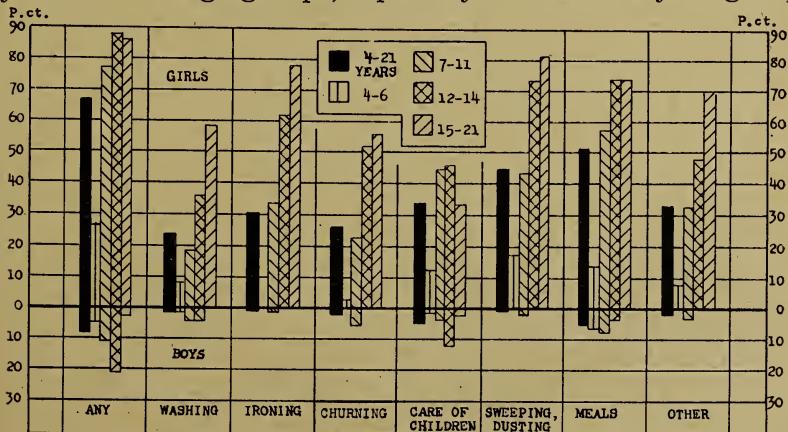


FIG. 8.—GIRLS' AND BOYS' INDOOR WORK

Most of the girls over 6 years old did more or less indoor work. Less than a tenth of the boys were so reported.

All but one of the 16 boys indicated as doing housework were less than 15 years of age. Three-fourths of them were in the 7-to-14-year groups. Care of younger children, assisting with meals, washing, and churning, in the order named, were indoor tasks in which the boys aided.

Girls.—Of 197 girls, 70.1 per cent helped at home, but only 2 worked away from home. They were older girls. The proportion working at home drops from 92.6 per cent of those

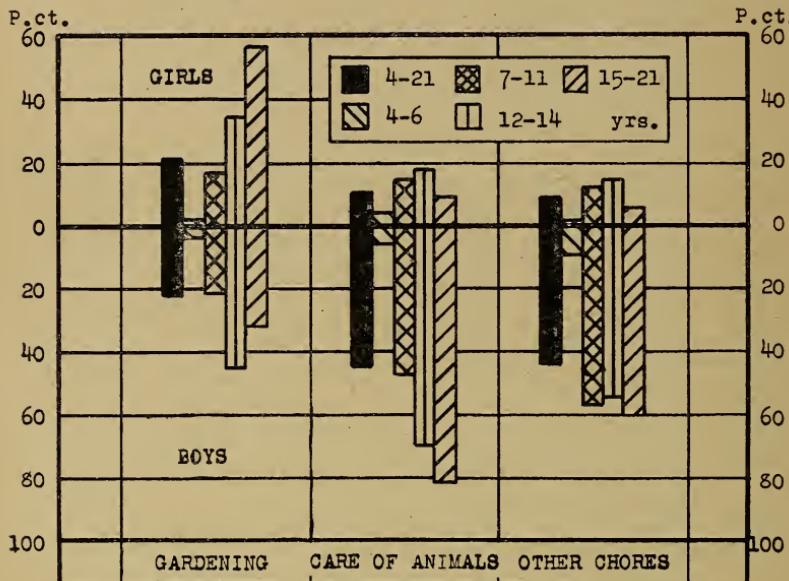


FIG. 9.—OUTDOOR WORK OF CHILDREN

Boys do most of the outdoor work. Girls share considerably in it, but the boys share very little in indoor work.

15 years old and over to 81.4 per cent of the 7-to-11-year group and 30.2 per cent of the 4-to-6-year-old girls. Two-thirds of all girls did housework—85 per cent of those over 14, 78 per cent of the 7-to-11-year group, and 26 per cent even of the 4-to-6-year group. The tasks most generally assigned to these girls were, in order of frequency, helping with meals, sweeping and dusting, care of younger children, ironing, churning, and washing, but a third of them did other household tasks. The relative frequency of these tasks varies a good deal from one age group to another. The smaller girls mainly helped with meals while the older girls also ironed and swept as well as cooked.

There were more than 3 times as many girls doing outdoor work as there were boys doing housework. Twenty-eight per cent of all the girls over 3 did some farm work; from three-fifths of those over 14 years to three-tenths of those 7 to 11 years, and a twenty-fifth of those 4 to 6 years. Most frequently this outdoor work was gardening, altho a good many girls also helped take care of animals and do other chores.

Area differences.—The variation from area to area is striking. The proportion of children working increases from one-third in the easternmost to three-fourths in the westernmost area. The newer the district, the more the children's help seems to be required.

Idleness.—A third of all the children were not reported as doing any work of the kinds specified. Nearly all of them were under 6 years old. Above that age practically all did some work. How long they worked we do not know. How the work time was divided among the different tasks was not determined. Doubtless both are subject to much variation from home to home and from age group to age group. Studies and recreation are not considered here.

TABLE 15.—*Play and recreation*Percentage¹ of boys (B) and girls (G)

	1-21		1-3		4-6		7-11		12-14		15-21	
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
Outdoor play.....	73.5	70.4	68.4	67.2	82.0	77.4	88.0	81.6	69.3	78.8	75.8	46.8
Sand pile.....	20.6	22.0	38.0	39.9	26.0	36.0	20.8	16.8	10.0	12.1	0.0	0.0
Swing	27.3	27.6	32.3	23.1	42.0	34.2	35.2	38.4	6.7	15.2	10.4	7.2
Tent	12.1	14.8	8.0	10.5	18.0	19.6	16.0	18.0	6.7	18.3	3.5	0.0
Bicycle	14.8	3.6	1.9	0.0	4.0	5.4	30.4	3.6	16.5	9.1	20.8	0.0
Croquet	4.9	4.4	0.0	0.0	2.0	5.4	11.2	3.6	6.7	9.1	3.5	7.2
Tennis	2.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	3.0	13.8	0.0
Ball	33.3	25.2	15.2	10.5	24.0	25.2	43.2	28.8	42.9	36.0	50.4	28.8
Hunting	14.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	12.8	2.4	36.3	0.0	46.8	0.0
Swimming	10.3	2.4	1.9	0.0	4.0	0.0	11.2	4.8	16.5	3.0	27.6	3.6
Fishing	11.7	3.2	0.0	4.2	4.0	1.8	12.8	3.6	23.1	3.0	32.2	3.6
Other	37.8	38.4	26.6	35.7	46.0	37.8	44.8	43.2	40.0	36.0	24.1	36.0
Indoor play	35.3	40.8	24.5	31.3	46.0	41.1	49.2	61.9	30.0	48.8	27.6	35.7
Play room	1.8	5.2	3.8	2.1	0.0	3.6	3.2	8.4	0.0	6.0	0.0	3.6
Card games	8.5	6.4	0.0	0.0	6.0	3.6	14.4	9.6	16.5	9.1	7.0	10.8
Other games	5.4	8.8	7.6	2.1	2.0	3.6	6.4	13.2	3.3	12.1	7.0	14.4
Story telling	28.1	26.8	24.7	23.1	42.0	36.0	43.2	33.6	10.0	15.2	10.4	10.8
Family sing.....	8.1	9.6	0.0	0.0	8.0	5.4	11.2	14.4	6.7	18.3	17.3	10.8
No play.....	27.0	30.8	32.3	33.6	20.0	23.4	12.8	19.2	30.0	21.3	24.1	54.0

¹ Based on 53 boys and 48 girls 1-3 years old and about the same numbers in the other age groups as in Table 14.

KINDS OF PLAY AND RECREATION

Play in general.—About three-fourths of the children engaged in play and recreation of the kinds studied. Nearly twice as many farm children played outdoors as indoors at the games specified. Nearly three-quarters played outdoors and two-fifths indoors. The one-fourth for whom no play or recreation was reported includes all but one of the babies, a third of the 1-to-3-year group, a fifth of the 4-to-6-year group, a sixth of the 7-to-11-year group, a fifth of those between 11

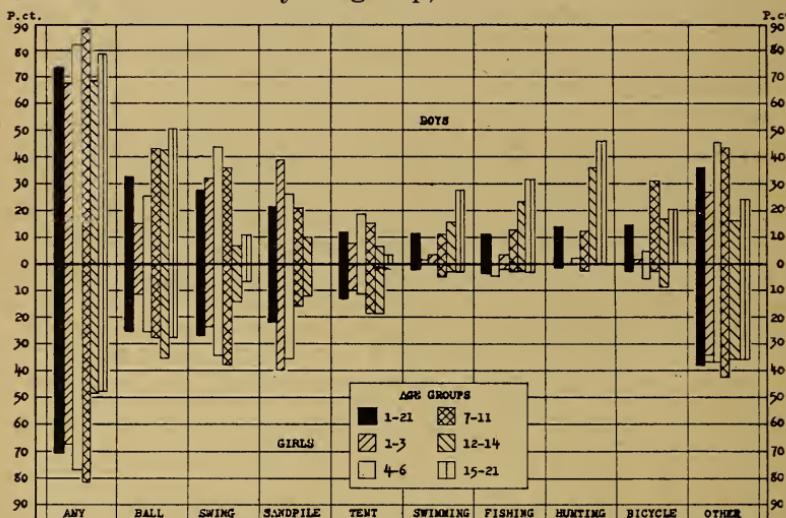


FIG. 10.—OUTDOOR PLAY

Most children play outdoors in the ways listed here. Doubtless every child engages in some outdoor play. Ball, swing, and sand pile were most popular.

and 14, and two-fifths of those over 14. Doubtless all the children played in many ways not listed here for special study. Dolls among girls and folk games among both boys and girls are good examples.

Outdoor play.—In every age group, outdoor was much more general than indoor play. Running games were prominent especially in the intermediate age groups. Imitative play ranged from dolls to golf. Of all the specified forms of outdoor play, the various games of ball were most popular. They were played by about a third of all the children. They began in the 1-to-3-year group where an eighth learned a very rudimentary ball play. The popularity of the ball games increased up to the 7-to-11-year age group. Above that point about two-fifths reported ball games, in each age group. The swing was the most popular outdoor plaything except the ball, especially in the 4-to-11-year groups in which a third of the children used the swing. It was only a little less popular among the younger children but among the older ones it

furnished exercise and exhilaration to only about a tenth. The sand pile furnished amusement to a fifth of all the children — mainly the younger ones, including about two-fifths of the 1-to-3-year group, but none of those over 14.

An eighth of all children had play tents altho very few had indoor play rooms. From 1 to 11 appears to be the tent age. A twelfth of all rode bicycles, mainly children between 7 and 14 years old.

Ball, hunting, fishing, and swimming, in the order named, were the favorite outdoor sports of the children over 14. Hunting was indicated by only a twelfth of all children, but by a fourth of those over 14; fishing by a fifteenth of all, but by a fifth of those over 14; swimming by a twentieth of all, but by a sixth of those over 14.

Indoor play.—Indoor play of the kinds studied was reported for about two-fifths of all children, ranging from none of the infants and about a third of the 1-to-3-year-old children to over half of those 7 to 11. Story-telling was the favorite

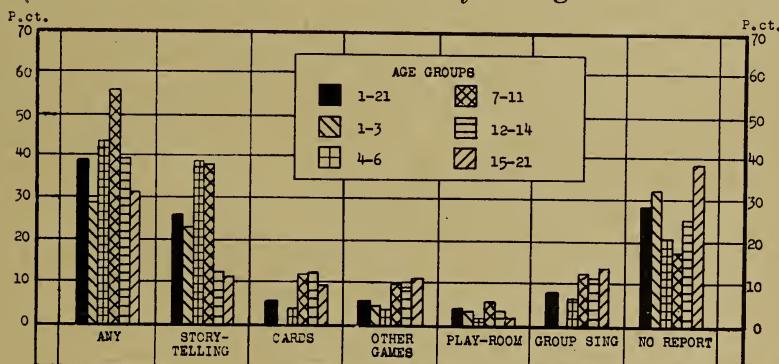


FIG. 11.—INDOOR PLAY

Much less than half the girls and boys were reported as engaging in any of the kinds of indoor play reported here. But undoubtedly everyone had indoor amusements of many kinds not listed here. The boys and girls had substantially the same indoor amusements. The girls had a little less story-telling and card play but a little more of group or family singing, use of play room, and "other games."

indoor pastime. Nearly a fourth of the 1-to-3-year-old children took part in it, while its greatest popularity was with the 7-to-11-year-old children where three-eighths shared it, falling to a tenth of the children 15 years old or over. A twelfth of all children took part in family sings. This included a seventh of the children over 14 and an eighth of those 7 to 14 years old. Card games were played by a fourteenth of all children; an eighth of those 12 to 14, a ninth of those 7 to 11, and an eleventh of those over 14 years. Only 3.4 per cent of all children had play rooms; the highest proportion of these fell in the 7-to-11-year group. Other indoor games were played by a sixteenth of all children.

Boys and girls.—Boys tended toward outdoor amusement more than girls, especially in the higher age groups. About a fourth of the boys and nearly a third of the girls indicated no play of the kinds specified. This was true of half the girls over 14 but of only a quarter of the boys of this (15-to-21-year) age group. About half of the boys over 14 years old played ball and hunted, nearly a third fished, more than a quarter swam, a fifth rode bicycles, and more than an eighth played tennis. Among the girls of the same age, two-sevenths played ball, but only one girl swam or fished, and none hunted, rode bicycles, or played tennis. A slightly larger proportion of girls than boys played cards and other indoor games. They were equal in their fondness for stories, but more boys than girls over 14 took part in the family singing.

In the 12-to-14-year-old group, on the other hand, the girls were more active than the boys. Nearly four-fifths of the girls and about two-thirds of the boys reported recreation. Ball, hunting, fishing, swimming, and bicycling had already gained the favor of the boys, while the girls, altho they played ball, still used the play tent, the swing, and the sand pile. About a third of the boys and nearly a half of the girls reported indoor amusements. The boys in this group outranked the girls in card games but the girls outranked the boys in story-telling and singing.

In the groups below 11 years, ball, swing, sand pile, play tent, and story-telling were favorites for both. The boys added an interest in bicycles, croquet, and card games, beginning usually in the 7-to-11-year group. The girls preferred singing and unspecified indoor games. In general, the boys seem to begin to play younger.

Expenditure level.—In general, play was not greatly influenced by the expenditure level, but in a few ways it apparently made a distinct difference. The sand pile furnished the favorite pastime in the groups spending less than \$1,500 a year, partly or perhaps almost entirely because these were homes in which there were smaller families of younger children. The swing and ball were the most popular playthings in the families of all three expenditure groups falling between \$1,500 and \$2,499. In the "over \$2,500" group the ball was most popular and the swing had not disappeared but tennis got attention.

Card games including "Authors," "cards," and others resembling them were twice as popular in the "over \$2,500" group as in the \$900-\$1,199 group. The gradation was not uniform in intervening groups but the tendency seemed to be present. Among indoor pastimes, story-telling was a favorite

at all expenditure levels as well as at all ages. Hunting, fishing, and swimming each claimed the attention of a fourth or a fifth of the children in the "over \$2,500" group but much smaller fractions in each of the lower expenditure groups. Here again the age of the children is probably much more important than the money spent.

TABLE 16.—*Children's home reading and lessons*¹
Percentage of children

Item	All ages	Ages in years			
		4-21	4-16	7-11	12-14
Any reading.....	41.7	15.2	39.0	57.8	80.3
Fiction	23.1	5.7	17.8	37.5	53.5
News	22.6	3.8	17.8	34.3	57.1
Economics	3.9	0.9	0.6	6.2	16.0
Other educational	5.6	0.9	3.9	7.8	16.0
Home lessons	18.3	14.2	19.2	25.0	16.0
Music lessons	20.4	7.6	25.1	32.8	17.8
Children in homes having					
Over 99 books.....	6.1	3.5	3.8	11.2	6.5
50-99 books.....	10.4	16.0	5.7	12.9	10.5
12-49 books.....	24.0	26.9	29.5	20.9	20.7
1-11 books.....	38.2	48.3	29.5	47.0	37.2
Unspecified	21.3	5.3	31.5	8.0	25.6

¹ Based on 105 children aged 4-6; 151, 7-11; 64, 12-14; and 56, 15-21 years old.

HOME READING AND LESSONS

Reading.—Fiction stood first, news second, and educational material a poor third on the reading list of the Nebraska farm children studied. This applies to home reading of course, as the table under discussion includes no school data whatever. The fiction read naturally varies greatly with the age and taste of the child. The very young child first hears or reads fairy tales or simple fiction of a less fanciful kind. Later come adventure and romance in their turn.

About two-fifths of all children over 3 years of age read fiction, news, or educational material. Apparently almost half of this material was fiction and most of the rest was news. About 4 per cent of the children were reported as reading economic and other educational matter.

Only a sixth or seventh of the 4-to-6-year-old children did any reading. Most of these read fiction but some read news. A third of the 7-to-11-year-old children read mainly fiction

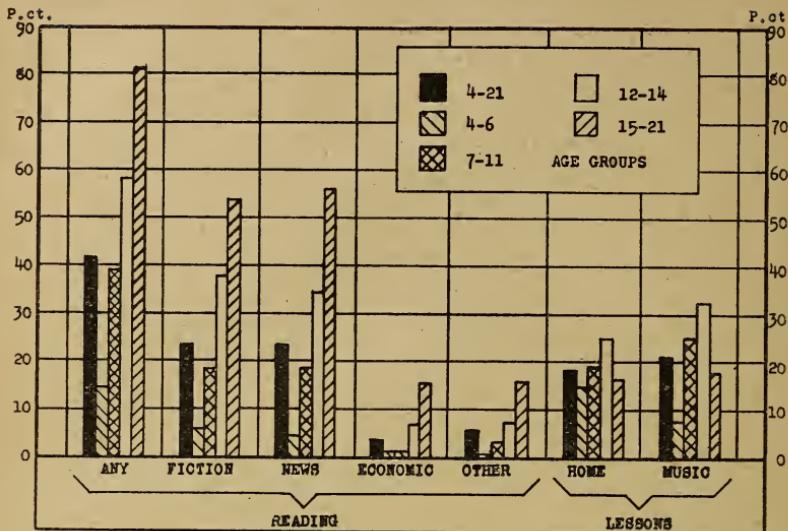


FIG. 12.—HOME LESSONS AND READING

Fiction and news are the principal items of home reading. Music is the most important among home lessons taken outside of the regular school hours.

but news also to an important degree. Among the 12-to-14-year-old children the proportion of readers jumped to 58 per cent; 34 per cent reported news and 38 per cent fiction. Four-fifths of those over 14 years of age read habitually, and in this age group alone news was the favorite reading matter with 57 per cent indicating it. Fifty-three per cent reported fiction, while 16 per cent reported economic, and the same number other educational reading.

Terman and Lima, in their studies of children's reading, found that 13 per cent of 776 California children over 8 years of age had read no books except required school texts during the 2 months preceding the survey.¹⁶ The Nebraska survey shows that 32 per cent of the children over 11 years reported no reading at all outside school texts. On the other hand, the Terman and Lima studies indicated a drop in the reading interest beginning at the age of 15, which was not shown by the Nebraska farm children.

It is possible that more children cultivate the reading habit than were reported as doing so. Several homes which did not indicate reading for their children showed bookshelves well stocked with juvenile favorites. One such family containing 2 girls, 13 and 8 years old, reported a library including the Harvard classics, Bible stories, the Prudy books, the Tarzan

¹⁶ Terman, L. M., and Lima, Margaret. Children's reading. D. Appleton and Company, 1926, 26, 29.

series, and "Red Pepper Burns." Another with boys 17 and 13 and a girl 11, reported the Child's Book of Knowledge, Bible stories, the Alger books, the Henty books, and 6 volumes of Louisa M. Alcott. It is probable that the children in these homes did some pleasure reading, even tho they were not reported as doing so. Such cases were exceptional, however.

In most homes where reading was not reported for children of the pre-adolescent and teen ages, inspection of the family bookshelves showed an obvious dearth of material likely to interest a child. "There's not much to read," explained one Kimball County mother in excusing her 8-year-old daughter for not showing an interest in reading. The family library contained a Bible, a cook-book, and a veterinary book; the school library consisted of a dictionary and it was miles to the market town. Another home with a 10-year-old boy and a 7-year-old girl possessed "just a few books in a box packed away in a closet."

Boys read more.—Farm boys showed a keener appetite for reading than farm girls in every age group, as regards both the proportion indicating the habit and the range of interests covered by it. Of the 4-to-6-year-old boys, 17 per cent or one-sixth read for pleasure; among girls of the same age, 14 per cent or one-seventh. In the 7-to-11-year age group, 45 per cent of the boys and 35 per cent of the girls had the habit. In the next group, 12-to-14, 69 per cent of the boys and 49 per cent of the girls had acquired the taste. Nine-tenths of the boys 15 or over showed it and seven-tenths of the girls. News was the favorite type of reading matter among the boys in every age group, and fiction among the girls. Even so, more boys than girls were fiction readers. They also read more news than girls, and more than 3 times as many boys as girls read economic and other educational matter.

By expenditure groups.—Thirty-eight per cent of the children in the expenditure groups under \$1,800 indicated reading for pleasure as compared with 45 per cent of those in the groups over \$1,800. The advantage of the higher expenditure level groups was especially evident among children 15 and over. Seventy per cent indicated reading in the groups under \$1,800 and 86 per cent in the groups over \$1,800. In the lower age groups the distinction was much less marked: The variation was quite irregular from one expenditure group to the next.

Abundant reading.—Twenty-five children were indicated as reading at least one volume a month, or its equivalent (300 pages). A good many more may have done so, but there was no way of measuring the extent of their reading. Of these

25 children, 18 were boys and 7 were girls. Three were 9, 2 were 11, 6 were 12 to 14, and the other 14 were 15 years old or over. Only 5 of these children were in expenditure groups under \$1,800; only one in a group under \$1,500. Eleven of them, or 44 per cent, were members of at least one club, as compared with 17 per cent of all the children. In most cases this was a 4-H club. Ten of the children, or 40 per cent, were from homes having a library of 50 or more volumes.

Terman and Lima found that "gifted" children 8 to 13 years old and 35 per cent above the average in intelligence read from 2 to 4 times as many books per month as the control group of unselected children.¹⁷ These were city children. The intelligence rating of the Nebraska farm children was not obtained, but one may doubt whether it would show quite so close a relation between native endowment and number of books read because books are not always so readily at hand in the country.

Home lessons.—Nearly a fifth of all children reported home lessons other than music lessons—a seventh of the 4-to-6-year-old children, a fifth of those 7 to 11, 25 per cent of the 12-to-14 group, and a sixth of those still older. There were no marked differences between the sexes, but a slightly larger proportion of girls took home lessons in the age groups under 15, while above that age more boys reported home lessons. More children in the lower expenditure groups had home lessons than in the upper groups. Twenty-four per cent of those in families expending less than \$1,800 were so reported and 14 per cent of those above \$1,800. This is probably due to area peculiarities rather than to anything else. All but 11 of the children receiving home lessons were in Clay County, where there were fewer families with the higher expenditures than in the other 3 areas.

Music lessons.—One-fifth of all children over 4 years old received music lessons—28.5 per cent of the girls and 10 per cent of the boys. These lessons were most common in the 12-to-14-year group in which 48.5 per cent of the girls and 13.6 per cent of the boys received them. In the 4-to-6-year group, 7.6 per cent reported the lessons; 10 per cent of the girls and 4 per cent of the boys. In the 7-to-11-year-old group, 25 per cent received them—a third of the girls and 13 per cent of the boys. In the 12-to-14-year-old group, 33 per cent of all children received them. Among children over 14 this dropped to 18 per cent—a quarter of the girls and a ninth of the boys. By expenditure groups, 26 per cent

¹⁷ Same. pp. 51-55.

of the children in the groups expending less than \$1,800 took music lessons as compared with only 17 per cent of those over \$1,800. This unexpected result is due to marked local fluctuations. The Clay County area, despite its low expenditures, provides two and a half times as great a proportion of music pupils as any of the other areas. In the Washington County area, 11 per cent of the children studied music; in Lancaster County, 17 per cent; and in Kimball County only 9 per cent; but in Clay County 52 per cent were so reported.

Books owned.—A few homes had libraries of from 100 to 300 volumes each, but in general books seemed to be less bought and less read than periodicals. One home in 16 had a library of 100 volumes or more; one in 10 had between 50 and 99; one in 4, between 12 and 49; and the rest gave a definite number below 12 or said "A few," "Several," or gave some similar answer.

Less difference than might have been expected was shown between upper and lower expenditure groups in number of books owned. Among homes spending under \$1,800, 35 per cent owned one to 11 books; among homes spending over \$1,800, 40 per cent. From 12 to 49 books were claimed by one-third of the homes under \$1,800 and only one-sixth of those above. With the larger libraries, however, the advantages of the upper expenditure levels begin to show. Only 6 per cent of the families under \$1,800 in expenditures had libraries of 50 to 99 volumes as compared with 14 per cent of those above; and only 2 per cent of those below \$1,800 owned 100 volumes or more as compared with 10 per cent of those above.

On the whole it seems evident that taste and habit have more effect on the family than financial status. It is not unusual to find a family which reports music lessons, a piano, a radio, or other evidences of cultural interests and sufficient means to indulge them, but which reports no pleasure reading among its children and few or no books. The taste for reading and for the ownership of books has merely lacked stimulation.

Where titles were mentioned, aside from the Bible and Biblical stories for children, the authors most frequently met appeared to be Zane Grey, Harold Bell Wright, Gene Stratton Porter, and James Oliver Curwood. Classics were not infrequently mentioned and no doubt formed a considerable part of the larger libraries whose titles were not listed. Standard juvenile books like the works of Louisa M. Alcott also appeared frequently.

TABLE 17.—*Club membership*Percentages having membership in 1, 2, or 3 clubs and in clubs of each kind¹

	7-21	7-11	12-14	15-21
Percentage of boys and girls.....	16.5	4.2	38.6	27.1
One club	12.6	4.2	31.6	12.5
Two clubs	3.6	0.0	5.3	12.5
Three clubs.....	1.0	0.0	1.7	2.1
Percentage of boys.....	22.8	3.2	41.4	54.5
One club	16.6	3.2	37.9	27.3
Two clubs	5.2	0.0	3.4	22.7
Three clubs.....	1.0	0.0	0.0	4.5
Type of club				
4-H	14.0	1.6	17.2	45.5
Boy Scout.....	7.0	0.6	17.2	13.6
Others	6.1	1.6	10.3	13.6
Percentage of girls.....	11.2	5.0	35.7	3.8
One club	8.2	5.0	25.0	0.0
Two clubs	2.2	0.0	27.1	3.8
Three clubs.....	0.8	0.0	3.6	0.0
Type of club				
4-H	6.7	2.5	21.4	3.4
Camp Fire	3.7	0.0	17.9	0.0
Girl Scout.....	1.5	0.0	3.6	3.4
Others	3.0	2.5	6.1	0.0

¹ Based on 248 children: 63 boys and 80 girls aged 7-11, 29 and 28 aged 1-14, 22 and 26 aged 15-21.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS

Up to a certain age, club activities are about the same for boys as for girls. Beyond that point nature and custom put them in separate groups. This separation pervades practically all children's clubs. Of 248 children 7 years old or over, 16.5 per cent were members of some club or similar organization. Nearly three-fourths of these or 12.6 per cent of all belonged to one club only, a little less than one-fourth of them, or 3.6 per cent of all, to 2 clubs, and one-twentieth of them, or one per cent of all, to 3 or more clubs. No children under 7 years were reported in any such organization and only 4.2 per cent of those between 7 and 11 years.

The development of the social impulses which marks the onset of adolescence is reflected in the 12-to-14-year-old group, of which nearly two-fifths (38.6 per cent) were club members—41.4 per cent of the boys and 35.7 per cent of the girls. Among those over 14 years old, only about a quarter were club members but this decrease was wholly among the girls;

only one girl in the entire group belonged to any organization. The boys on the other hand continued to grow in membership percentage. More than half (54.5 per cent) of the boys in the highest age group were club members and more than a quarter (27.2 per cent) took part in 2 or more clubs. In every age group more boys than girls were members.

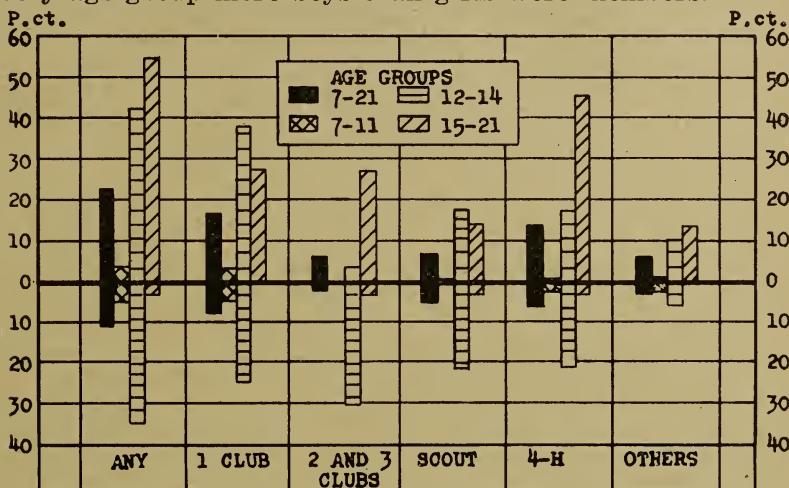


FIG. 13.—CLUB MEMBERSHIP

From 12 to 14 is the main club age of both boys and girls. Boys continue after 14 in many cases while girls rarely do.

4-H, Scout, and Camp Fire clubs.—The 4-H club was the most popular boys' and girls' club. It claimed 14 per cent of the boys and 6.7 per cent of the girls. Nearly half (45.5 per cent) of the boys over 15 belonged, but only one of the girls had joined. In the group aged 12 to 14 years, the girls were better represented. A fifth (21.4 per cent) of them belonged to 4-H clubs. Boy Scouts came next for the boys, with 7 per cent of them belonging — 13.6 per cent of those aged 15 or over and 17.2 per cent of those aged 12 to 14. The girls were divided between Camp Fire with 3.7 per cent of them and Girl Scouts with 1.5 per cent. All the Camp Fire girls were in the age group 12-to-14 years but of the two Girl Scouts one was older. Six per cent of the boys and 3 per cent of the girls belonged to some other club besides those already mentioned.

Area variations.—Club membership varied greatly from area to area. It was most frequent in Clay County, where 36 per cent of the children 7 years old and over belonged to one or more clubs — 48.3 per cent of the boys and 31 per cent of the girls. Fourteen per cent of them — 24.1 per cent of

the boys and 11.9 per cent of the girls — belonged to 2 or more clubs. In this county the membership was pretty well scattered among 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts, and Camp Fire girls. In Washington County only 29 children over 7 years old reported, but of these, 7, or 24.1 per cent, were club members. Two of these were Boy Scouts and the rest members of unspecified organizations. In Lancaster County only 13.6 per cent belonged to any club — 20.7 per cent of the boys and 6.3 per cent of the girls. These memberships were scattered among the different types of organizations. In Kimball County only 10.7 per cent belonged — 17.4 per cent of the boys and 4.3 per cent of the girls. All these were 4-H members.

TABLE 18.—*Educational and recreational costs per family*¹
Grouped by total annual expenditures per family

Expenditure group	All	Owner	Part-owner	Tenant	Hired man
All families.....	\$ 92	\$122	\$111	\$ 66	\$ 22
Under \$1,200.....	37	37	32	41	20
\$1,200-\$1,799	73	85	72	67	37
\$1,800-\$2,499	103	137	114	74	.....
\$2,500 and over.....	287	433	215	151	.....
Percentage of living costs ²					
All families.....	5.4	7.3	5.4	4.2	2.3
Under \$1,200.....	3.8	3.9	3.0	4.2	2.2
\$1,200-\$1,799	4.9	5.8	4.5	4.5	2.7
\$1,800-\$2,499	4.9	6.6	5.4	3.6	.....
\$2,500 and over.....	9.2	13.8	6.6	5.2	.....
Persons per family					
All families.....	4.2	3.8	4.6	4.3	2.5
Under \$1,200	3.1	2.7	3.7	3.2	3.6
\$1,200-\$1,799	3.8	3.7	3.1	3.9	3.2
\$1,800-\$2,499	4.8	4.7	4.8	5.0	.....
\$2,500 and over.....	6.0	5.4	7.9	6.8	.....

¹ Based on 339 families of 112 owners, 60 part-owners, 159 tenants, and 8 hired men.

² Percentage of total annual expenditures per family for all items of living, including value of those furnished by farm.

SOME MONEY COSTS

Actual money spent tells only a small part of the story of the use of time. It does show that certain things are enjoyed and so limited in supply that money is spent for them and that the spenders have found no satisfactory substitutes among the free means of spending time. The money spent for education and recreation averaged \$92 per family and varied greatly per family and per person among the different

tenure and expenditure groups. Owners spent for such items nearly twice as much as tenants and six times as much as hired men per family.

TABLE 19.—*Specified educational and recreational costs*¹

Item	Percentage reporting			Amount ²		
	All	Owners	Tenants	All	Owners	Tenants
All expenses	100.0	100.0	100.0	\$92	\$118	\$66
School	38.9	48.8	28.3	51	72	14
Reading.....	96.5	97.1	97.5	10	11	9
Books	3.5	2.9	4.4	17	19	16
Periodicals	95.9	97.1	96.2	9	10	9
Music ³	23.5	23.8	23.3	20	22	19
Organizations	79.6	84.3	75.5	38	44	31
Recreation	84.3	81.3	88.7	33	37	29
Movies ⁴	54.3	52.9	57.2	11	11	11
Social ⁵	48.0	47.1	49.6	10	13	9
Toys and sports..	17.7	15.6	20.7	11	11	11
Photography	20.9	20.9	21.4	5	5	5
Radio	16.8	17.4	16.4	34	41	28
Vacations	13.8	11.6	17.0	55	70	43

¹ Based on families of 172 owners, including 60 part-owners, 159 tenants, and 8 hired men reporting such expenses. The hired men are included in the "all" columns only. Amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

² Average per family reporting item.

³ Includes music lessons.

⁴ Includes also theatre, concerts, and lectures.

⁵ Includes picnics, fairs, dances, and other social affairs.

The causes of expenditures included in Table 18 and itemized in Table 19 are, in order of the frequency with which they were reported, (1) reading matter; (2) organizations; (3) entertainments such as movies, concerts, and lectures; (4) social, including such costs as those for picnics, fairs, and dances; (5) school; (6) music; (7) photography; (8) toys and sports; (9) radio; and (10) vacations. In order of the total amount of money spent per family these causes ranked quite differently: (1) organizations, (2) school, (3) reading, (4) vacations, (5) entertainments, (6) radio, (7) social, (8) music, (9) toys and sports, and (10) photography.

Only two-fifths of the homes reported school expenses, which included, in order of frequency, (1) books and supplies, (2) board and lodging for pupils at school, (3) tuition, (4) transportation, and (5) unitemized costs, but not school taxes. Full owners spent far more for schooling than part-owners or tenants, largely because 4 owner families supported sons or

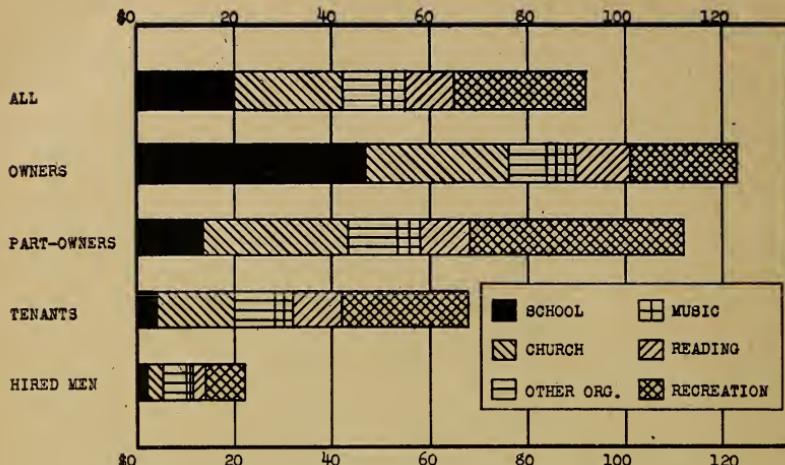


FIG. 14.—EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL COSTS PER HOME

The owner's home spends more for school and less for recreation than that of either the part-owner or the tenant. Churches received more than three times as much as all other organizations combined.

daughters in college. No others did so, altho some part-owners supported children living in town to attend high school. Twelve young people from these 389 homes were at college, but 6 were self-supporting and 2 were living on legacies. School costs reported for children under 12 years were very low.

Full owners also spent more than part-owners or tenants for organizations, especially the church, and for reading matter. Part-owners spent more than others for miscellaneous recreation, especially social affairs and vacations. Tenants in general fell considerably below both owners and part-owners.

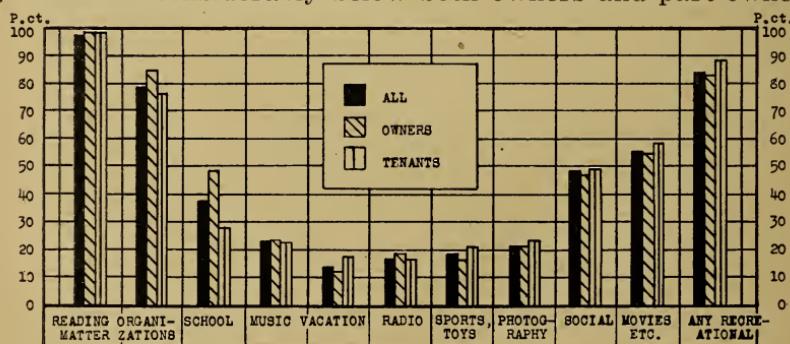


FIG. 15.—DETAILED EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL COSTS

Educational items here include much more than school, and most of the school costs do not appear in the direct household expenditures because they are tax supported. The figures are per home reporting the specified costs and ignore the homes which did not report the specified item.

both in percentage reporting these recreational costs and in amount spent. There were certain exceptions; more tenants attended movies and social affairs and made expenditures for toys or sports, and more took vacations altho they took cheaper ones.

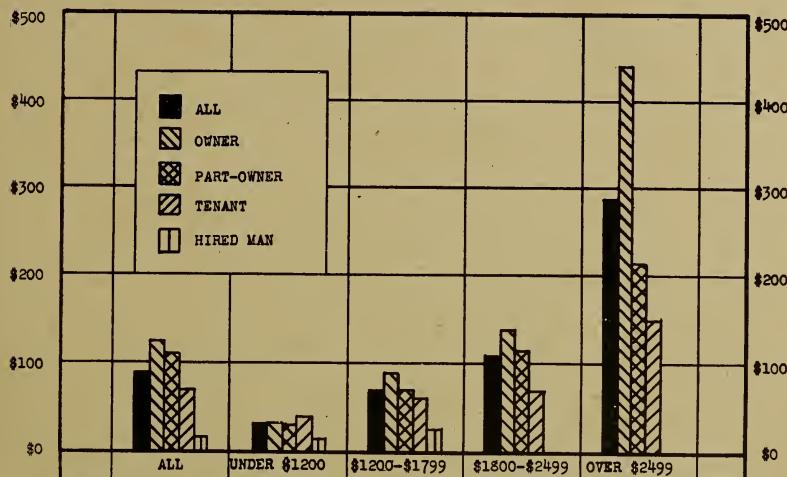


FIG. 16.—EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL COSTS BY EXPENDITURE LEVELS

Only about two-fifths of the homes reported the educational and recreational costs specified in the table but doubtless all were paying school taxes, and a considerable number had no children in school. The homes in the "over \$2,500" expenditure group spent four times as much on these items as the average home.

The amount spent for these items increases more rapidly than the total cost of living as we go from the lower to the higher expenditure groups. It doubles as we go from the "under \$1,200" to the "\$1,200-\$1,799" group, but the total cost of living differs only about 50 per cent in the two groups, being about \$1,000 and \$1,500 respectively. The "\$1,800-\$2,499" group showed only a proportional increase — about 30 per cent in each particular — but the "\$2,500 and over" group showed another 50 per cent rise in total amount spent with the most disproportionate rise of nearly 200 per cent in amount spent for advancement and recreation.

TABLE 20.—*Educational and recreational costs per year*
Farm and city costs¹ compared

	Percentage of all families			Amount ²		
	Farm	City		Farm	City	
		N. C.	U. S.		N. C.	U. S.
All expenses ³	100.0	100.0	100.0	\$90.80	\$54.07	\$55.56
School	38.9	57.9	50.0	19.84	6.12	5.25
Reading	96.5	.....	.....	9.65	10.25	10.55
Books	3.5	15.3	15.4	.61	.93	1.01
Periodicals	95.9	.....	.....	9.04	9.32	9.54
Music	23.5	16.3	13.3	4.71	2.97	2.64
Organizations ³	79.6	.....	.....	29.13	16.80	18.22
Church ⁴	66.0	70.2	71.6	22.28	9.60	10.13
Trades ⁵	14.8	29.9	31.0	.90	4.60	4.62
Lodges, clubs, societies	43.4	25.9	29.3	5.95	2.60	3.47
Recreation	84.3	88.1	86.7	27.47	17.93	18.90
Movies ⁶	54.3	.....	.....	5.94	8.62	9.92
Social ⁷	48.0	.....	.....	5.04	2.89	2.48
Vacations	13.8	26.4	25.9	7.57	6.42	7.51
Others ⁸ .....	.....	.....	.....	8.97	.....	.....

¹ Based upon 339 Nebraska farm homes, 3,828 North Central (N.C.) and 12,094 U. S. urban homes of laborers and low-salaried workers in 92 cities in 1918. Urban data from U. S. D. L. Bul. 357, Cost of Living in the United States, pp. 420-422 and 447-451.

² Average expenditure per family including those reporting no such expenditure.

³ Red Cross, included on preceding table, is excluded here for purposes of comparability. North Central urban families averaged \$9.86 for "charity and patriotic purposes," all urban families, \$9.08.

⁴ Includes Sunday School, missions, and religious organizations.

⁵ Labor and farmers' organizations.

⁶ Includes also plays, concerts, lectures, etc. In the N.C. urban survey 3,014 families or 78.7 per cent of all reported movies and 756 or 19.7 per cent reported other entertainments.

⁷ Parties, picnics, dances, fairs, excursions.

⁸ Toys and sports, photography, radio, and \$75.00 unitemized expenditures.

FARM AND CITY COMPARED

Nebraska farmers make greater cash outlays for the educational and recreational items listed in the table than city workingmen and men on small salaries. Figures are not available for other city people who doubtless spend more per family than workingmen.

For reading matter farm and city homes seem to spend about the same amounts in about the same ways. Each spent less than a dollar a year for books and about \$9 a year for periodical publications. No data are at hand on the number and kind of periodicals received by the city home, but typical Nebraska farm homes received a daily, a weekly newspaper, and one or more farm papers. Women's magazines reached about a third and general magazines about a third of the

farm homes. Homes in small towns received about the same periodicals in 1920 as did country homes.¹⁸

Music costs were mainly for lessons, in the farm homes at least, but included also expenditures for sheet music and music books. Farm radio costs were not included with music and the city data were gathered before radio had entered the worker's home.

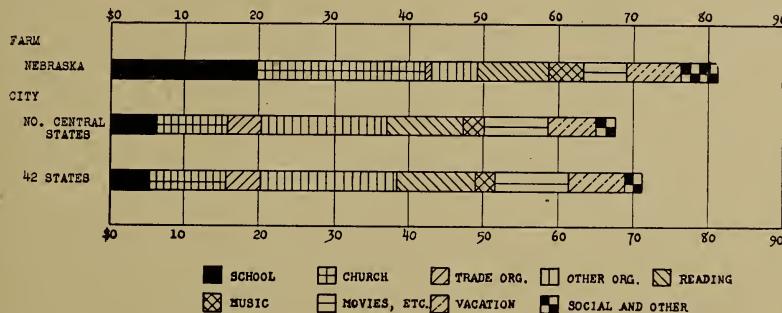


FIG. 17.—FARM AND CITY EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL COSTS

The farm home spends more than the city home for the specified educational and recreational activities, especially school and church.

Organization membership cost Nebraska farmers nearly twice as much as city workingmen per family. In both cases the church and kindred organizations received the bulk of the money — three-fourths among farmers and over half among city homes covered. Next to the church came lodges, clubs, and societies among farmers. They paid very little to farm organizations corresponding to labor unions. The city family spent about 5 times as much as the farm family on occupational organizations, partly because dues are higher and partly because twice as large percentages of city men incurred such expenses.

On movies, plays, concerts, and lectures the farmers spent less than the city workingmen. For social life they spent more than the workingmen, but even the farmers' expenditure of about \$5 per family for parties, picnics, dances, fairs, and excursions is rather modest. Vacations also cost the farmers more than the city workingmen paid for them.

Neither study shows the contact hours secured but both show the percentages of homes participating in some of the activities. Neither shows the kind of books bought but only 3 per cent of the farm homes bought any books during the year as compared with 15 per cent of the city homes, which also had much better access to public libraries. The farm

¹⁸ Reading matter in Nebraska farm homes. Nebr. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 180, 4-6.

homes depended much more largely on periodicals, to which 19 out of 20 of them subscribed. Only a fourth of the farm homes paid for music lessons or sheet music but the fraction of the city homes was still smaller. A majority of each contributed to church support but the city majority was a little the larger of the two in spite of the general opinion that the city is less religious. It may be able to get better church services at much less cost in larger congregations. Much the same may be true of lodges and clubs, which the farm homes a little more generally and much more generously supported. Only half as large a fraction of the farm homes spent money for vacations — over an eighth of the farm homes and a fourth of the city homes.

TABLE 21.—*Organizations*¹

Organizations	Percentage reporting			Amount ²		
	All	Owners	Tenants	All	Owners	Tenants
Any	79.6	84.3	75.5	\$38	\$44	\$31
Church ³	66.0	70.9	61.6	33	41	25
Religious societies	8.0	8.7	7.5	3	2	5
Red Cross.....	5.9	5.8	6.3	14	21	8
Farmers' Union ⁴	8.0	7.6	8.8	3	3	3
Farm bureau.....	6.8	8.1	5.7	10	10	9
Community clubs	2.1	2.3	1.9	2	1	3
Women's clubs.....	18.6	21.5	16.3	2	2	2
Lodges	28.3	25.6	30.8	20	22	18
Masonic ⁵	8.5	7.0	10.7	18	19	17
Woodmen	8.8	8.0	8.8	24	27	21
Royal Neighbors..	5.9	5.2	6.3	11	14	9
I. O. O. F. ⁵	5.3	5.2	5.7	6	8	4
Other or unspecified	8.0	8.0	8.2	12	14	10

¹ Based on families of 172 owners (including 60 part-owners), 159 tenants, and 8 hired men, the latter included only in the "all" column. Accurate to the nearest dollar.

² Per family reporting such expense.

³ Includes Sunday school and missions.

⁴ Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union.

⁵ Includes women's auxiliaries.

ORGANIZATIONS

Most homes join in many activities thru organizations. We have already discussed away-from-home activities of those types which do not necessarily involve formal membership. We are now ready to discuss expenditures in formally organized societies such as churches, lodges, farm organizations, and women's clubs. Some of them are quite local but

most of them are branches of state, national, or international bodies.

The amount of time spent upon these memberships was not determined — only the amount of money. As these organizations are not mainly of a business character, membership and expenditure in them are mainly for the purpose of providing facilities for pleasure or for advancement along educational or spiritual lines. A more detailed tabulation and study of related topics in 1920 has already been published. These figures are per household but include few or no items applicable to children except Sunday school, which is included with church and missions.

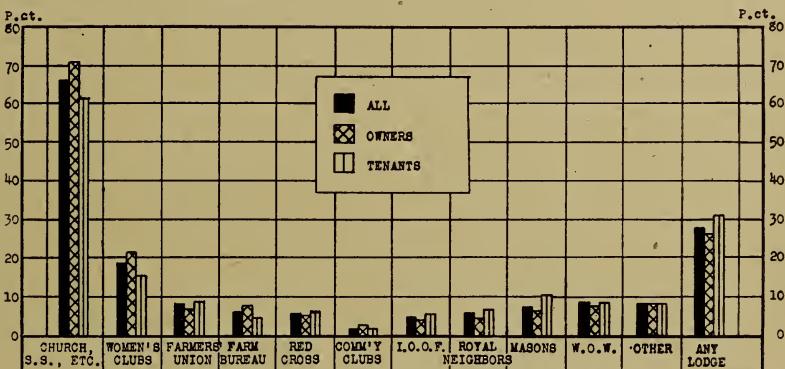


FIG. 18.—MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS

Churches, lodges, and women's clubs received most of the dues and other payments made to organizations, but farm organizations, Red Cross, and community clubs were also of importance.

In 1924, 4 families out of 5 studied reported membership payments, many of which could not be allocated to any particular member of the family because the study was one of household and not individual budgets. The church took more money than all of the other organizations combined. It doubtless influenced the use of time proportionately, but no detailed data on this point were secured. The church has the advantage of meeting the needs of all ages and both sexes in a unified organization or group of bodies as no other organization does. About two-thirds of the families were contributing to church support on an average of \$33 each.

Less than a third of the homes had any lodge membership. They were spending about \$20 per home in this way. Lodges stood next to the church in number of homes affected and in total amount spent.

CONCLUSION

A complete picture of the farm family's use of time can come only from the combined efforts of (1) the farm welfare economist dealing with the life of the home, (2) the home economist studying the work of the home, and (3) the farm economist analyzing the work of the farm.

Further studies in the use of time by farm people should emphasize living as well as making a living. Farm management surveys have analyzed the farm men's field and other economically productive work quite well. The home economist is beginning to consider a similar analysis of the homemaker's job, also emphasizing the economically productive activities. Her work is not less economic or important because it produces mainly an income of direct satisfaction of the family needs instead of a money income useful only because it can be used indirectly to secure these satisfactions.

The human welfare economist also is beginning to realize the importance of careful study of the use of time in his field. The life of the family is no less in need of study and direction than its work. Work is very important but only as the necessary foundation of satisfactory living. The proper studies can call attention to the uses of time that have proved most worth while and most likely to be adopted by other farm homes with good results. They should also try "to make the best better" by suggesting, wherever possible, improvements upon the best current practices.

